

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXX.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News	153
Leading Articles:—	
Revenue Raising in Hongkong	154
The Railway Loan Business	154
Bureaucracy in Hongkong	155
The Asiatic Immigration Question	155
The New American Tariff	156
Random Reflections	156
Hongkong News	157
Sanitary Board	157
Desperate Fishermen	158
A Sanitary Prosecution	158
Hongkong Waterworks	159
Electric Traction Company of Hongkong, Ltd.	159
Correspondence:—	
Revenue from the Liquor Trade	160
The Question of the Hour	160
The Lack of Educational Facilities at the Peak ..	160
The Revenue Question	161
Uttering Counterfeit Coin	161
Disturbance Near the Docks	161
Wanted Work and Food	161
French Sailor Drowned	161
Serious Illness of Consul-General Rublee	161
Second Mate Sent to Prison	162
Macao Notes	162
Surveys in Hongkong	162
Kulangsu Municipal Council, Amoy	162
Departure of Captain C. V. Lloyd	162
Daring Robbery	163
Repatriation Problems	163
Shipping Notes	163
A Mysterious Disappearance in the Philippines ..	163
Fire on Steamer "Glenavon"	163
Supreme Court	164
Notes from Japan	166
Company Promotion in Hongkong	167
"Our Philippines Experiment"	167
The Antung-Mukden Railway	168
The Straits Dollar	168
The Nepalese Embassy	168
Far Eastern Telegrams	169
Wine Growing at Chefoo	169
New Chinese Stamp for Collectors	169
Commercial	169
Shipping	172

BIRTH.

At 2, Redhill, The Peak, on 16th August, to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. C. FENNAR, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On July 15th, at West Hampstead, P. W. SERGEANT to MINNIE BOUNDFOED

On July 27th, at the Cathedral, Rangoon, FREDERICK ARTHUR RICKARD, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to IVA CASEMENT SMITH widow of the late H. Smith, Chefoo, third daughter of the late John Smedley.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on 12th August, FREDERICK GEORGE TILBROOK, aged 26 years, late of Paget's Horse and Johannesburg Mounted Police, Transvaal.

At Shanghai, on 13th August, MICHAEL FELLER, Examiner, I.M. Customs, Amoy, aged 44 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD C1.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 16th ultimo arrived per *Australien* on the 17th inst.

The English Mail of the 23rd ultimo arrived per s.s. *Devanha* on the 18th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

We are officially informed that Hongkong has declared Amoy released from quarantine.

The Royal Netherlands warships H.M. *de Ruyter*, *Tromp* and *Koningin Regentes* are at Manila.

The fire insurance companies affected by the recent great fire in Osaka are stated to be paying all proved claims promptly in spite of their heavy losses, and are thus increasing their credit with the public.

It is stated that there are two boats - one a "Blue Funnel" and the other a P. and O., up the Yangtse River at the present time loading consignments of Chinese pork for the English market.

Mr. Clark and Captain Douglas, whose expedition to the interior of China resulted in the death of a Sikh alleged to have been killed by the natives of Kansu, arrived at Peking on August 1.

Twelve Koreans are reported to have been recently arrested in Kwonwong on a charge of *lese Majesté*, which consisted in burning photographs of the Emperor and Crown Prince of Korea.

F. P. Jeayes, second officer on the Philippine inter-island transport *Wright*, is believed to have committed suicide last week by jumping overboard, though no motive for the act is known. Jeayes was by birth an Englishman, and had been a pilot on the Yangtse.

Mr. Frederic Henry Balfour, of Palazzina Castelli, Via San Francisco Powerina, Florence, Italy, and late of Shanghai, formerly editor of the *North China Herald* and *Daily News*, who died on May 22, aged 63, left estate in the United Kingdom valued at £26,264. 5s. 1d.

Major G. E. Pereira, C.M.G., D.S.O., 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, till recently Military Attache in China, is about to retire. He served in the China war 1890, when he was wounded, and during the latter phase of the South African campaign, receiving the Queen's medal and three clasps.

H.M. Legation at Peking has reported that the Chinese Government have formally sanctioned an agreement for the working of certain gold mines in the vicinity of Jehol (province of Pechili) by a company, composed of Chinese and foreign shareholders, with a total subscribed capital of 800,000 taels.

His Excellency Kao Ehr Hin, one of the Chinese representatives on the Macao Delimitation Commission, has been promoted to the post of first secretary to the Board of Foreign Affairs. This position has just been vacated by His Excellency Chang Yin Tong, who succeeds H.E. Wu Ting Fang as Chinese Ambassador at Washington.

A team from the Tsingtau Polo Club is due to arrive in Shanghai on Monday and will probably play a friendly game with the Shanghai Polo Club on Tuesday. It is announced that the Hongkong team cannot go to Shanghai as, owing to the ground having been closed for three months they were unable to practise and their ponies are not in condition.

News has been received at Foochow of the death of Mr. Schouisky, Russian Consul at that port, who appears to have died on the train while on the way home via Siberia.

In the case of the alleged manslaughter of a Chinese by Inspector Mears, of Kiukiang, which was heard before Mr. E. T. C. Werner, British Consul, the Consul decided last week that there was not sufficient evidence to send the accused for trial and he was accordingly discharged. The prosecution in the above case on behalf of the Chinese Government was undertaken by Mr. Fleming, while Mr. Godfrey, of Messrs. Ellis and Hayes, was retained for the defence.

At Bisham Church, Berkshire, on Sunday, 18th ult., the marriage was solemnised of Mr. F. Ronald Easterbrook and Mrs. Little, widow of Mr. R. W. Little, of Shanghai. The Rev. William Farrer, Vicar of Bisham, officiated, and the bride was given away by Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, late Commander-in-Chief of the China Station. Mr. Bertie Wilkinson acted as best man, and Miss Wilkinson, daughter of Lady Wilkinson, attended the bride.

The death is announced of Mr. Fred. Haskell, a well-known resident of Shanghai. He died last month in New York. Mr. Haskell came to China in the early sixties, when Shanghai was young and small. He was public spirited and did much for the development and extension of the Model Settlement, having served as a Municipal Councillor. He was intensely interested in all that pertained to the welfare of Shanghai. For some years he was at the head of the China and Japan Trading Company, in Shanghai. He retired from business about ten years ago and returned to his native land—America.

Sir John Anderson, Governor of the Straits Settlements, speaking at an agricultural show at Penang recently, said:—"I myself am an optimist in regard to rubber and a great many other things, and that optimism is founded on a firm belief in the intelligence and resources of my countrymen. I think it is the only thing which justifies the optimism because there is no doubt there are a great many dangers surrounding the agricultural industry of this country—dangers that are far more numerous than any of us have any idea of—but I feel assured that my countrymen will face that condition of things with the spirit and the courage that characterises them on such occasions, and that they will strive to make agriculture a permanent source of employment and riches to this country and the community."

Say what you will about the Germans, says the Tsingtau correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury*, but they are an industrious nation, whether it comes to tilling the land or inventing airships. The Tsingtau hills and vales have changed very materially in ten years. Trees have been planted and good roads laid out everywhere. All the beautiful hills round Tsingtau are either replete with modern forts, little Gibralters, or with waterworks and signal stations. Business is also experiencing a considerable revival, they say. Whatever the reason may be, but summer guests are exceptionally few this year. New buildings are put up here and there, and among them a new Lutheran church. This community may be in need of a new church, but much more of a religious revival—more spiritual salt and less of social and moral decay.

REVENUE RAISING IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, August 16th.)

Presumably the Colonial Government is able by this time to form a fairly accurate forecast of the Budget statement which is due for presentation to the Legislative Council next month. It will not have been forgotten by the general public that in order to meet expenditure last year the Government put into the general exchequer the Civil Servants Widows and Orphans Fund, amounting to some four lakhs of dollars. The Colonial revenue this year is unlikely to show any substantial improvement on that of last, and from what transpired at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Friday last, we gather that apart altogether from the loss which the Colony is certain to suffer in its opium revenue, over and above the "substantial contribution" promised by a Government doomed to extinction before the year is out, the Colony will be required to provide at least an additional four lakhs of revenue in the coming year. With a view to furnishing a large part of this amount the Government proposes to increase the fees for licences to sell wines and spirits and hopes thereby to double the revenue at present received from this source. We can well believe that no opposition to the general principle of the measure need be anticipated, but there is much reason to fear that the Government's expectation of being able to double the revenue from this source by the method proposed is over sanguine. Perhaps when the discussion on the resolution is resumed in the Legislative Council next Friday the Colonial Secretary will give some reasons for the faith that is in him in this connection: certainly it is not at present widely shared by the community interested in the question. Many readers will remember that the Government revised the liquor licence fees with similar expectations some six or seven years ago. The result was that a considerable number of the smaller businesses were promptly closed, and we believe we are correct in saying that the Colonial revenue derived very small benefit indeed from the change. Are not the present proposals likely to have similar results? His Excellency does not appear to be entirely satisfied with the method proposed and would evidently prefer to have recourse to an import duty, on Chinese and European liquor alike, being of opinion that it would be at once the simplest and fairest method as well as the most advantageous to the revenue. But this method would involve breaking away from the free-trade traditions of the port. Any proposal of this character would be sure to evoke very strong opposition, and His Excellency would have considerable difficulty in convincing the mercantile community that the objection is a purely sentimental one. Theoretically, the method looks simple enough, but if the Government had proposed to adopt this method and had invited an expression of opinion from the Chamber of Commerce we venture to say that the Chamber would have had no difficulty in showing that the method would not prove as simple as it seems and that it is open to serious doubt whether it would be most advantageous to the revenue. The proposal to increase the licence fees is certainly the least objectionable of the three proposals which the Government has been considering, but the more it is examined the greater the doubt becomes as to whether it will answer the expectations of the Government. If the amendment proposed by the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE at the meeting of the

Council on Friday was not strictly in order, his remarks were certainly pertinent to the question under discussion. The notorious evasion of the law by holders of adjunct licences to which the hon. member drew attention cannot in fairness be permitted to continue to the detriment of the hotel proprietors from whom the Government exacts a fee twice as large as the adjunct licence holder pays, while there is practically no distinction in the trade they both carry on. Hotel proprietors are entitled to ask the Government for what Mr. OSBORNE called fair play; that is to say, for protection of the privileges they pay for, and if the present Liquor Ordinance does not afford that protection, they may legitimately ask for its amendment. The higher the fee demanded from hotel proprietors the greater becomes the justice of their demand. Compliance with it, however, subjects the Government to the risk of a reduction of revenue from adjunct licences without any corresponding increase of revenue from hotel proprietors. The tendency of enhanced fees, combined with a strict enforcement of the law must be towards the extinction of many small retailers and wine and spirit merchants, and consequently involves serious disappointment of the hopes of a hundred per cent. increase in the revenue derivable from liquor licences.

THE RAILWAY LOAN BUSINESS.

(Daily Press, August 17th.)

It can hardly even yet be clearly understood why PRESIDENT TAFT selected the moment that he did for putting in a claim to participate in Chinese loans. Diplomatically, at first sight at least, the initiatory step would seem to have partaken very much of the nature of a blunder; at the time the Chinese were in an unwontedly suspicious mood, the reactionary party, under the false pretence of patriotism, had raised the party cry of "China for the Chinese," and, finding that the cry had become popular amongst the unthinking crowd, were seeking to turn it to their own private advantage, and restore the old régime of office as a source of private pelf. Under the circumstances it was but natural that the first impression of the REGENT should have been one of astonishment and anxiety at receiving a telegram from the PRESIDENT, claiming the right of America to participate in the loan being negotiated with England and Germany for the construction of the proposed Hankow and Szechuan Railway. As the lesser of two evils the reactionary party had been agitating for the withdrawal of all foreign railway concessions as infringing on China's "Sovereign Rights," and the purchase of the concessionary rights by means of loans raised abroad, as well as the construction of all railways in the future by Chinese capital exclusively. It was well known that the main object of the party was to render all industrial progress to China impossible, and to restore the worst abuses of the old régime; and as the members knew very well that there was no money to be had in China at rates which industrial undertakings, such as railways and mines, could afford to pay, they reasoned on sure grounds that the hated innovations would at once be effectively excluded, without the necessity of proceeding to *force majeure*.

Under the circumstances, as foreseen by some of the better informed American organs, the inevitable result of the demand to participate as a right in the process of lending money to the Chinese Government would be to increase the popular suspicion

as to foreign motives, and hence to increase enormously the power of the reactionary party; and it was clearly in view of this that the PRINCE REGENT felt anxious with regard to the possible outcome of the situation. Owing to the general ignorance as to the part being played in China by the reactionary party in their attempts to reverse the course of events, the most extraordinary motives have been attributed to PRESIDENT TAFT in seeking to participate in the new loan. It has been presumed that he had been desirous of assuming a less friendly attitude towards England than his predecessor, Mr. ROOSEVELT, who, he is made to believe, played too much into the hands of England for the entire good of the States, and that the resolution taken to telegraph to the PRINCE REGENT while the latter was actually in negotiation with England was the outcome of this. Undoubtedly, when first announced there may have been such an apparent indication, and the time certainly seemed inopportune. In other quarters, where exists an unreasonable suspicion of Germany as the root of all political mistrust, it was sagely given out that America had acted in the matter on Germany's instigation. The subsequent course of events has shown pretty plainly that neither explanation accords with the facts of the case. PRESIDENT TAFT has certainly not in any overt way sought to disavow himself from the policy of his predecessor. Mr. ROOSEVELT had, in fact, in the negotiations regarding the resumption of the Cant n-Hankow line stipulated for the participation of the States in the next railway loan, and it was probably at the request of the Morgan group of capitalists recalling this, that PRESIDENT TAFT sent his telegram. That it would have caused any inconvenience to Great Britain does not, as a fact, seem to have entered his mind, and it certainly does not seem to have appeared to the British negotiators as at all dictated by unfriendly motives. The idea that the step was suggested by Germany with the object of raising a sore between America and England still less corresponds with what we know of the intimate relations between Germany and the States. Germany has been following very closely the recent proceedings in Congress relating to the rearrangement of the Tariff, and has not been so enamoured of the result that she would feel inclined to enter into an intrigue with the States against England. Altogether the proposition of PRESIDENT TAFT that American financial houses should be permitted to take part in the loan for the construction of the new Hankow-Szechuan Railway, seen from his point of view, was perfectly natural; and in no way unfriendly towards either Germany or England; and we may accept without reserve his explanation of the affair, and see how it has been that the English interests concerned have so far condoned its presumed unfriendly nature that they have expressed their willingness that the amount of the loan should be increased by one-half, in order that America should come in on perfectly even terms with the others.

This, however, naturally leads to a consideration of the project from an international point of view. Although willing to advance the money for the construction on the guarantee of the Chinese Government itself, the financiers concerned do not hold the line in pledge, and so have no direct interest in its construction, not in its financial success. Now we are seeing in the construction of the Pukow-Tientsin Railway how, in spite of the best efforts of the Chinese Government itself, its guarantee does not afford the

slightest protection against fraudulent mal-appropriations of the loan. The Government has already had to cashier one director, and seriously caution another, though seemingly afraid to remove him from office. Now this proposed Hankow-Szechuan Railway is a much more serious undertaking than the Tientsin-Pukow line. It is practically with regard to the difficulties of construction on a par with the main Alpine lines in Europe, and requires engineering skill of the highest nature. Yet we have no record of any survey, nor has any consulting engineer of any eminence been called on to report on the feasibility of the line, or the method of construction, nor indeed even of the route to be adopted. We have had another example, even in the case of so easily constructed a line as that from Shanghai to Hankow, how hundreds of thousands of capital can be spent, nominally in the construction of a railway, but have really been absorbed into private channels. For such lines the guarantee of Peking may be looked upon by reasonable undertakers as sufficiently satisfactory. The Chinese are certainly at the moment sufficiently skilled to construct such lines so that they can carry ordinary traffic. When we come to lines requiring special skill, and enlarged experience, as a line in Szechuan, especially as that line is intended to be one of the main trunk lines of the Empire, the whole face of affairs is changed. We have no guarantee in the first instance that a line commenced by incapable engineers in an unknown country is capable of being completed, however much may be spent upon it; and we have no possible check on the cost, even accepting the possibility of construction. Financial agents have generally a propensity for shifting these considerations off their own shoulders, and think little how the funds are expended provided that they can issue a sufficiently enticing prospectus; and the railway financing of China is at the moment in that inchoate condition that there are huge profits in sight for the first undertakers; and perhaps Chinese officials are not alone in their conceptions of the advantage of being first in the field.

However it may turn out, there is a considerable amount of responsibility resting on the shoulders of those Governments who are engaged in negotiating these advances, both with regard to their own nationals and China herself; all is not gold that glitters, and not all the schemes proposed could bear the test of close investigation in the interests of their nationals or of China herself. Chinese finance is not yet past the danger point, yet both home and foreign influences seem to be combining to drag it back into the slough of despond.

BUREAUCRACY IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, August 18th.)

No one who has the smallest acquaintance with the local history of this Colony will need to be reminded of the claim to a more effective voice in the management and control of local affairs which the British Community has consistently been urging for the past fifty or sixty years. By public meetings and by petitions to Parliament they have frequently asserted this claim in the strongest possible manner, and we all know how successive Governments have expressed a large amount of sympathy with this desire and have met it to some extent by increasing the unofficial representation on the Legislative Council, and by yielding to the wish for unofficial representation on the Executive Council. Two Governments of opposing shades of politics have even considered the feasibility of establishing a

Municipal Council in Hongkong; but while they came to the conclusion that the proposal was not a practical one in Hongkong they nevertheless strongly sympathised with the aspiration of the community to participate in the management and control of local affairs in every practical way. We regret to notice a very pronounced tendency in recent Colonial legislation to check and to counteract such developments. Unofficial representation on the Sanitary Board has become practically valueless, and at next Friday's meeting of the Council one of the most reactionary Bills that have been laid before the Legislative Council for some time comes up for its second reading. It is a short Bill to amend the Liquor Licences Ordinance of 1908, and a memorandum appended to the Bill bluntly states that the primary object of this measure is to transfer from the Justices of the Peace to the Government the control of publicans' and adjunct licences. It further explains that "The existing system, whereby these licences are issued by the Justices, has been proved in practice to be cumbrous by reason of the lengthy procedure attendant under the Principal Ordinance upon the issue of a licence and to be more a matter of form than of utility by reason of the fact that the meetings are attended for the most part only by the presiding Magistrate, the Captain Superintendent of Police and one other official Justice called in to make a quorum." The ATTORNEY-GENERAL is certainly correct in his reference to the attendance at these meetings called for the purpose of issuing or transferring licences, but this fact does not strike us as a sufficient reason for concentrating the sole authority in the Captain Superintendent of Police. It is astonishing that such a proposal should be brought forward nowadays when public sentiment is so far from favouring secrecy in such matters that it leans to local option. What we have to bear in mind is the fact that under the system which at present obtains in Hongkong, and has obtained, we believe, throughout the life of the Colony, the Justices of the Peace, and through the advertisements in the local Press, the community generally, are kept informed of all applications which are being made; and though, in nine cases out of ten, not more than three of the hundred and sixty Justices of the Peace attend the meetings, it is no argument that the general body of Justices have not paid any attention whatever to the application. We can agree with the ATTORNEY-GENERAL that the person most competent to judge of the merits of a candidate for a licence is the Captain Superintendent of Police, upon whom devolves the duty of ensuring that the business of the licensee is carried on in a proper and orderly manner, but it seems to us rather too much to claim that this official is also the most competent to judge of the suitability of a locality in which to open licensed premises. There are surely many unofficial Justices who are equally competent to judge such a question. Have there not, indeed, been occasions when the Justices of the Peace have disagreed with the recommendations of the Captain Superintendent of the Police on that point? Be that as it may, the question of the suitability of a locality is eminently one on which the community generally should have a voice, and in view of the increased interest which must attach to this subject by reason of the proposed further taxation of the liquor trade, it seems to us more than ever desirable and necessary that the powers which existing Ordinances confer upon the Justices of the Peace should not be interfered with. What have the Justices them-

selves to say on the subject? Of the 160 on the roll only 40 are officials. Why do not the unofficial Justices of the Peace convene a meeting and express their views on the subject by a resolution?

THE ASIATIC IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

(Daily Press, August 19th.)

Nothing, in a general way, could appear to be more of an unqualified benefit to the world at large than improvements in the means of inter-communication. Upon every abstract consideration advances in this direction would seem to be one of the few things which can do nothing but good. As time, however, has gone on since the benefits of rapid inter-communication have come into play, we have begun to discover that, like all things mundane, they are not without some counterbalancing disadvantages. It is one thing for Europeans to have the means of getting to and from the East with facility, but quite another for the Chinese to be able to get to the West with equal ease. At this latter point, some doubts have naturally sprung up as to whether the improvements in steam navigation are so much a subject of congratulation as has generally been assumed, and there is room for further doubt as to the bearing of the change in the future. It was always wished that China should come not only into the comity of nations politically considered, but should be more intimately connected with foreigners in trade and in the ordinary pursuits of life. This process has been very much hastened by the improved means of inter-communication of modern times, and while we are still advocating the policy of bringing the Chinese and Europeans into more intimate relations, the Chinese themselves are carrying it out—not precisely in the way in which we would desire to see it done—by turning up in any foreign country where it may appear to their advantage to do so. This, of course, does not appear to be in the proper order of things, and is being not unnaturally resented in the United States and in many of the British Colonies, where the attempt is made to check this rather too rapid advance of the Celestial by the imposition of poll taxes and at times by other and more severe action. In this course they are fairly justified, and no amount of argument will convince either the United States or the British Colonies to the contrary. They look upon such measures as merely a means of reasonable self-defence against undue competition in labour; and, under the circumstances that exist, few people can say they are not fairly justified in their view of the matter, however much it may militate against abstract theories as to free trade and free competition, in which, even in the present day, people have not entirely lost their faith. So far as the question affects China, it is manifest that no injustice is done by restricting the immigration of Chinese into foreign countries, seeing that the residence of foreign subjects is restricted in China. A country which has always adopted an exclusive policy towards foreigners can scarcely complain, as of late it has shown itself inclined to do, that a like policy is adopted with regard to her subjects, though in a different form. If America and the British Colonies keep out Chinamen by taxing them on arrival, China keeps out foreigners by Treaty, or rather, to speak more accurately, only admitted them into the country at all by Treaty—and considered it a very great concession even to do as much as that. With respect to Japan, her attitude towards Europeans is no doubt much more

liberal than that of the Chinese; but, at the same time, no one would seriously say that Europeans are really on a footing with Japanese in their country, that is, in such a way that absolute equality from other nations can be fairly claimed in return—so that, even with respect to the Japanese, some qualification as to their rights in other countries may not be unreasonable. The problem as to Asiatic immigration in various parts of the world is no doubt one of considerable complexity, but, at the same time, it is not one which is incapable of solution, if it be approached upon the right principle—which is absolutely that of reciprocity. It is against the ideas of liberal nations, and more especially of Great Britain, to do anything that can be considered to come within the line of class distinctions. The principle is no doubt sound, but, like all principles, it has its limits; and it is not applicable to people who diverge so widely as the average European and the average Asiatic. There is a manifest difference between a class distinction and a complete difference of race—and it is the latter that has to be dealt with in the solution of this problem. If the plain facts be taken as the basis of action, in place of general theories, there should be little difficulty in coming to a reasonable understanding on the subject. Of late this has become more recognised by both European and Asiatic nations, and the matter has been dealt with on both sides with much more temperance and common-sense than had been previously manifested. No one who considers the subject upon the actual facts can doubt that the immigration of Asiatics into America or European countries must be regulated in some way that will be fair to both sides, and cannot otherwise proceed without raising unnecessary and possibly even serious complications.

THE NEW AMERICAN TARIFF.

(Daily Press, August 20th.)

We cannot attempt to predict what effect the new United States Tariff will have on the export trade of China. We have not, to start with, a complete copy of the new tariff, but the lengthy digest published in a Special Supplement of the London *Times* showing the percentage of increase or decrease in the tariff on the principal imports enables us to see that while some of the most important lines of export from China will be subject apparently to increased duties under the new measure, others benefit by the revision. The chief export from China to the United States is silk, which represents a value of something like twelve million taels a year, and we gather from the digest alluded to that the increase on spun silk ranges from 15 per cent up to 94 per cent for sewing silk, according to quality. Tea, which represents another big item in the list of American imports from China, remains unaffected, and skins and hides, of which America takes a supply valued at something like five million taels a year, will be admitted on a duty which shows 25 per cent reduction on the previous figure. Wool, which is another large export from China, representing in value about three million taels per annum, is not appreciably affected, but straw braid and matting, which presumably come under the heading of "manufactures of straw, grass, &c.," will bear a duty increased by 16 per cent. On the whole the influence of the tariff on the trade of China does not seem likely to be highly detrimental. The fundamental idea of the measure has been based on the essential principle of reducing import duties on the necessities of life, and

fostering American manufactures by increasing the duties on articles of luxury and on products more economically manufactured elsewhere than in the United States. Imports from China being largely of the nature of raw material and goods that cannot be produced in the United States therefore escape lightly.

A matter of importance to importers generally is the drastic provision of the new measure relating to invoices, methods of valuation, especially in relation to consigned merchandise, and the increased powers of the boards of appraisers. This amendment occupies fifty pages in the Bill, and one of the writers who contribute to the *Times* Supplement says: "Those who are familiar with consular invoices will find the new forms contain clauses which are intended to check almost every discovered method of avoiding the payment of just duties that long experience with tariffs has evolved." A good deal of anxiety seems to have been created abroad, and it may be shared even in Hongkong and China, by the following provision which defines the actual market value of an article:—

The actual market value or wholesale price, as defined by law, of any imported merchandise which is consigned for sale in the United States, or which is sold for exportation to the United States, and which is not actually sold or freely offered for sale in usual wholesale quantities in the open market of the country of exportation to all purchasers, shall not in any case be appraised at less than the wholesale price at which such or similar imported merchandise is actually sold or freely offered for sale in usual wholesale quantities in the United States in the open market, due allowance by deduction being made for estimated duties thereon, cost of transportation, insurance, and other necessary expenses from the place of shipment to the place of delivery, and a commission not exceeding 6 per centum, if any, has been paid or contracted to be paid.

This provision would seem to bear, for instance, on the matting import from China, which has notoriously given the Customs authorities in the United States a good deal of trouble in this connection, because of attempts being made to evade payment of the proper duties on the most expensive grades. This provision gets over the difficulty and will serve to effect a prompt settlement of such disputes. The President is authorized to appoint a board of nine general appraisers of merchandise, the salary of each to be \$9,000 (£1,800) per annum, who shall possess all the powers of a Circuit Court of the United States. To these general appraisers all cases of dissatisfaction with the amount and rates of duties levied by the appraisers and assistant appraisers at the various ports will be referred. This board will exercise both judicial and inquisitorial functions. Appeal must be made by the importers to this board within 15 days, or the original duties and charges will stand. Then there will be a new Court for Customs Appeals only, and after its organisation no appeal will be taken or allowed to any other Court, and the decision of the United States Court of Customs Appeals will be final.

The new tariff is very unpopular on the continent of Europe, notably in France and Germany, and there are many who predict a tariff war with these countries. The New York correspondent of the *Times*, referring to these predictions, remarks: "Doubtless the United States is better equipped in such a war than either. Moreover, she can always fall back on her greatest market, the British. If Great Britain possessed some means of defence, Congress might have been more careful in dealing with foreign countries. The underlying thought that no trouble can come

from that quarter undoubtedly influenced the whole work of revision." Evidently, American politicians and business men refuse to believe in the early success of the Tariff Reform movement in England.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Wasn't it good to see the sun again on Saturday? With old Sol smiling on our weekend recreation we forgot all about the depressing days we had had during the week.

If I were to sum up the chief local events of the week, I should simply say ice and liquor. I don't wish to suggest that there was nothing doing beyond an indulgence in these, but rather that these two matters occupied the most space in the local newspapers, with perhaps the Scotch oath as a good third.

It is claimed for the Scotch form of oath administered in courts of justice that it is more sanitary than that in use in English courts, and any one who has seen the filthy Bibles—begg pardon, I mean filthy copies of Bibles—handed to witnesses in courts of justice will agree that it is much safer from a health point of view to hold up the right arm than to kiss a book which has been touched by all sorts and conditions of people in varying states of cleanliness and in varying stages of health. Even in England certain justices and others who preside over courts prefer to have witnesses brought before them sworn in the Scotch fashion, and our lawmakers in their wisdom have given witnesses the choice of being sworn in the Scotch fashion or of simply declaring if their religious beliefs, or unbeliefs, make them look askance on the English oath or on the kissing of the book.

What suggested the above remarks to me was the paragraph in the Press the other day recording the incident in the Marine Court, where a witness was supposed to be sworn in the Scotch fashion. Apparently the English oath was administered to the witness, who nodded his head as the court official uttered the words and who, instead of kissing the book, held up his right hand. The idea was all right, but it was not the Scotch oath, and, even though the solicitor had another try at it, the result was still the same, with this difference that it satisfied the solicitor. But it was not the Scotch oath. The phraseology of the northern form is quite different from the English form, but apparently that fact was not within the cognisance of the court nor the solicitor.

The ice case is perhaps remarkable for the enlightenment it has given the public as to the manufacture of that commodity much prized at the present time, but the difference between clearness and transparency is not so readily grasped by the lay mind. In fact the discussion does not tend to either the one or the other, for, as has been well said, in the multiplicity of words there is confusion of thought.

The Thespians doing business in the Theatre Royal at present have realised the stage value of the ice case. The other night one man appeared on the scene enveloped in a huge coat and giving all the indications of being cold. On his companion demanding to know the reason for his wearing the great coat he shivered more than ever, which suggested the remark, "Why you must have been listening to the Ice Case."

Woe is me! My favourite tippie is threatened. The price of whisky is likely to be increased, and another inducement for our remaining in exile in this outpost of Empire has been removed. Really, it is too bad. The one thing that gives life in the East its flavour is the facility for raising a thirst and the satisfaction of being able to quench it cheaply and with all sorts of variations, and this attempt on the part of the Government to derive revenue out of our necessities will not be appreciated by those who find their chits already too costly at the end of the month. The popular whisky and soda will probably go up in price, but what about the milk and soda, the ginger beer, the tonic and the tansan which are just as much luxuries as the other; but forsooth, because they are "soft" drinks they go untaxed. Doesn't this look like

class legislation in favour of the teetotaler? And isn't the teetotal section of the community, the smaller?

* * *
We have heard many definitions of the effects of liquor, but "half seas over," "sprung," "cut," etc., are not to be compared with the quaint answer given by a Chinese witness at the Marine Court the other day. On being asked what was the condition of a certain man he replied that he was "away from his arms and legs." Descriptive, isn't it?

* * *
Apparently the authorities are quite proud of the new harbour light erected on Blackhead's Hill. Nautical men wax sarcastic over it, and even landsmen scoff at it, but that does not diminish the feeling of pride which these responsible cherish for their little pet scheme. It is gravely announced in the *Gazette* that a "group flashing red light with a white sector showing on a red brick tower has been exhibited since the first of August. It shows a group of three flashes of one second duration." It is well to know what it is and what it is intended to do.

RODEDICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The Government spent \$18,150 on training nullahs last year.

The P. & O. mail steamer brought to Hongkong bar silver valued at £19,800.

The number of plans deposited with the Director of Public Works in 1908 was 1,642, as against 2,276 in 1907.

The Rev. M. Longridge, naval chaplain, who left Hongkong a few months ago, has been appointed to H.M.S. *Superb*.

Dr. McKeon, of the Philippine quarantine service, who was stationed for a short while in Hongkong, will again take station at Mariveles.

Not a single case of plague was reported in the Colony of Hongkong last week. The only case of communicable disease notified was one imported case of enteric fever.

Mr. S. Dunn in his annual report remarks the feature of 1908 in the Botanic Gardens was the flowering of two trees which formed important additions to the decorative plants of the Colony.

The actual amount of premium paid into the Colonial Treasury during the year 1908 in respect of land sales, extensions, grants, &c., was \$70,420.27. The estimate of revenue from this source was \$300,000.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to Ordinance No. 22 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance 1892.

We note in the Service journals the appointment of Engineer-Commander F. W. Highton to the *Tamar*, as Chief Engineer of the Hongkong yard. This involves the early transfer of Captain Fielder, whose departure will be much regretted by the many friends he has made during his stay in the Colony.

While the river steamer *Shun Tak* was returning from the West River on Saturday night a Chinese passenger attempted suicide by jumping overboard. He was rescued by the crew, and appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy yesterday, when he was remanded for observation.

A Chinese woman was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Aug. 19 with being in unlawful possession of 25½ taels of dross opium. The drug was discovered concealed in a bucket under some pig-wash. His Worship imposed a fine of \$128, the alternative being three months' imprisonment.

At the Police Court on Monday afternoon before Mr. Wood the hearing was continued of the case in which Liu Kwan, an Ambulance coolie, charged Li Sau Sam, a Chinese constable, with assaulting him in one of the waiting rooms at the Central Police Station on the 31st instant. Mr. L. D'Almada e Castro appeared again for the complainant, and Mr. Sydenham Dixon represented the defendant. The chief Chinese detective Iu Po and three police officers gave evidence for the defendant, who was subsequently acquitted.

A native recently extradited from Macao was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Aug. 18 with the larceny of a silver watch and a gold chain. He was found guilty and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour and four hours' stocks.

A native was charged before M. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Aug. 19 with stealing three jackets and \$1.29 in cash from an opium divan in Queen's Road West, and also with returning from banishment. On the first charge the defendant was sentenced to two months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks, and on the second he was sentenced to a further term of six months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

The operations of two Chinese divers at the Hongkong Star Ferry Wharf on the 14th instant attracted a number of interested on-lookers. A gentleman who was a passenger by the ferry had the misfortune to drop his gold watch which fell between the planks of the landing. He offered a reward of \$50 for its recovery and this brought out two divers, who with an assistant holding a rope on the landing worked assiduously the greater part of the day. Their performances were quite remarkable, one man remaining under water for fully three minutes. Their efforts, however, were fruitless.

The case in which Captain Cameron, of the s.s. *Shun Lee*, charged his former chief mate, H. J. Weathered, with using abusive language on Sunday last came before Mr. Hazeland at the Police Court on the 14th instant. The defendant had been arrested on a warrant and pleaded guilty. Mr. Sydenham Dixon, who prosecuted, stated that there were three occasions on which the abusive language was used, and the Magistrate inflicted a fine of \$10 and bound the defendant over for one year in the sum of \$100.

Two prosecutions for infringing the exclusive rights of the Postmaster-General by bringing unstamped letters into the Colony were heard by Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Aug. 19, when Sergeant Wilson prosecuted. The first charge was against the comprador of the s.s. *Tak Hing*, who was defended by Mr. P. Sydenham Dixon (of Mr. R. A. Harding's office). Mr. Dixon raised the defence that the defendant did not know the letters were on board until he found them in his room. His Worship recorded a conviction and imposed a fine of \$25. A similar fine was imposed upon a farmer from Canton who brought letters into the Colony by the s.s. *Hoi Tung*.

Two young Chinese women appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Aug. 19 on the charge of attempting to commit suicide. One was stated to be the fifth concubine of a Chinese clerk, while the other defendant was a maid. According to the story told to the police the husband of the first defendant had ill-treated her, and had also suggested to the second that she should become his sixth concubine. Both women felt aggrieved, and decided to end their trouble by jumping over Blake Pier. Their first attempt to dive into the unknown was frustrated by an Indian police sergeant, who told them to return to their home. As they declined, however, and as they prepared for a second header into the sea the sergeant took them to the police station and charged them with attempted suicide. The case was adjourned pending the arrival of the master of the house, and evidently his explanation satisfied all parties, for the police withdrew the charge.

Two reports were made to the police on the 19 inst. by residents that thieves had entered their dwellings in their absence and taken away numerous belongings. Mr. Munro, a missionary, who resides in Shanghai Street, told the police that between the 16th ultimo and the 19th instant an American travelling trunk containing \$10 worth of religious books was stolen from the mission hall. The other victim was Mr. A. Ritchie, shipchandler, who also resides in Shanghai Street. His story was that between the 16th and 18th instant some person entered his house and departed with two gold scarf pins, one of which was set with gold quartz; one masonic silver scarf pin set with brilliants, four finger rings, four gold studs, two pairs of sleeve links, two rolled gold American studs (trowel pattern), two other gold studs, a silver bangle, a pair of gold sleeve buttons and a white-handled razor. The value of these articles Mr. Ritchie places at \$81.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Aug. 17 at the Board Room. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe presided, and there were present: Hon. Mr. P. N. H. Jones (Vice President), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. L. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Pearce (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

SALE OF THE HOSPITAL HULK "HYGEIA."

The following letter was read from the Government relative to the use of Kennedy Town Hospital for the treatment of small-pox, and the sale of the *Hygeia*:—

"I am directed to state for the information of the Sanitary Board, that, upon the recommendation of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, supported by Dr. Stedman, His Excellency the Governor has decided to effect a retrenchment in the Colonial expenditure by using the Kennedy Town Hospital for the treatment of small-pox, and by selling the hospital hulk *Hygeia*. His Excellency has also decided, at the request of the directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, that leave should be given to the Chinese community to use their Infection Diseases Hospital at Kennedy Town for the treatment of small-pox, and the necessity of the construction of a new small-pox hospital under the auspices of the Tung Wah Hospital has thus been obviated."

PROPOSED ABOLITION OF AN ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

The HEAD OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT submitted the following minute relative to the proposed abolition of an Assistant Medical Officer of Health:—

"His Excellency has instructed me to ascertain whether the members of the Board concur with me in stating that only two Medical Officers of Health are now required, and not three. I proposed to refer the matter to members in connection with the Retrenchment Committee's proposals: as the matter is urgent, however, I should like to bring it forward at the next meeting in the form of a resolution:—"That the Board recommends that there should in future be one Assistant Medical Officer of Health only, and that the post of second Assistant Medical Officer of Health be abolished as soon as convenient, and that arrangements be made with the Medical Department for the loan of a medical officer during the absence on leave, etc., of either the Medical Officer of Health or the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, to discharge the duties of a sanitary adviser to the Board and the Department."

Mr. Ho Kom Tong minuted:—I think one Assistant Medical Officer of Health is quite enough.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS—I think that this is a wise and suitable retrenchment, and I do not agree with the minute of Mr. Shelton Hooper that the amount of work in the mortuary is likely to give any serious trouble.

Mr. SHELTON-HOOPER—With the large amount of mortuary work to be done by the assistant medical officer of Health it is doubtful if the proposed retrenchment is advisable.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—I agree with Dr. Fitzwilliams.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—This cannot be considered satisfactorily without full discussion in committee as to the present duties of the A.M.O.H. and some explanation of the reason why the post can be now abolished.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think, too, that some explanation and discussion is necessary.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the matter be considered in committee.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT stated that when the paper came in originally he intended, as it was part of the retrenchment scheme, to refer it to the committee; but as it was pointed out to him that the matter was urgent he wrote the minute to the Secretary which was circulated. He might say that the recommendations of the Government were that there should be one Medical Officer of Health on this side and an assistant medical officer of health in Kowloon. Dr. Macfarlane, who was now on leave, had been recommended for the post of

Government bacteriologist, and on his return there would be a vacancy for the second assistant medical officer of health. The question was whether they would require anybody to replace him or not. He might point out that except for one short period, as far back as 1903, there had never been three medical officers at work at the same time in the Colony; at that time a third medical officer was appointed on the recommendation of Professor Simpson when plague was very bad in the Colony, but since August 1905 there had only been two medical officers actually engaged in the work. In addition, he wished to point out that owing to the simplification of plague procedure and the reduction in the amount of general sanitary work the work of the medical officers had been reduced. That was a further reason why only two medical officers were required. Certain duties had been transferred to the Building Authority, and that further reduced the work of the medical officers, so that the doctors originally appointed for plague were not required now even for plague work. They could do other work. Last year there was a severe outbreak of plague, the cases exceeding over 1,300, and the two medical officers were able to cope with the work. It seemed therefore unnecessary to have three medical officers where two would suffice, as even in an emergency they could always get an extra man. To pay that officer during the period when he is not required seemed in the present state of the finances to be hardly advisable.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Is any of the Medical Officer of Health's work now done by the Head of the Department?

The PRESIDENT—A certain portion of the work formerly done by the Medical Officer of Health is now done by the Head of the Department, while a great deal is done by the two in conjunction.

Mr. HOOPER—Who does the mortuary work in Victoria?

The PRESIDENT—A great deal is done by the Government bacteriologist.

Mr. HOOPER—Who does Kowloon?

The PRESIDENT—The Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. HOOPER—How many hours a day does that take him?

The PRESIDENT—I will ask Dr. Pearse to reply.

Dr. PEARSE—The average is about two hours a day.

Mr. HOOPER—Then, Sir, I would refer you to the Governor's minute. What is his suggestion that we should borrow from the Medical Department?

The PRESIDENT read the Governor's minute.

Mr. HOOPER—Then we should be in no worse position than we are to-day. We do not care whether a doctor is supplied from the medical department or whether he is sent from England. We have the same staff.

The PRESIDENT—That was the proposal made by the Secretary of State in recommending Dr. Macfarlane for the post of Government Bacteriologist; if the second assistant was not replaced we should always have a man from the medical department.

Mr. HOOPER—Then I think that is quite satisfactory. We shall not suffer the loss of a medical officer of health, because we shall have one at our call from the medical department.

When the Board resumed the PRESIDENT brought forward the resolution contained in his minute.

This was seconded by Mr. LAU CHU PAK, and carried on the assumption that arrangements are made with the Medical Department for the loan of a medical man.

WATER FLUSHING / GAIN.

Arising out of a discussion on the insanitary condition of a latrine,

COLONEL BEDFORD said the solution of the difficulty was water flushed urinals. That was the remedy for this and a great many other nuisances which came before the Board.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the chief difficulty was the water supply.

COLONEL BEDFORD thought that should hardly apply when they saw tons of water rushing to the sea after rain. He had served on the Rock of Gibraltar, where the only water that could be obtained was from the rain which came down from Heaven or from water pumped from wells. In that town, with a population of 25,000,

there was no such thing as a latrine which was not a water-closet. There was no dreadful bucket system. That was one of the things which shocked him most when he came to the East.

Dr. CLARKE, M. O. H., replied that the explanation was that Gibraltar had a dual water supply. The use of filtered water for W. C.'s when Chinese had only two hours of water daily would be iniquitous. (Hear, hear.)

The matter then ended.

EXHUMATION AND RE-BURIAL.

Correspondence was submitted relative to an application for a permit to exhume remains from the Chinese Protestant Cemetery at Pokfulam for re-burial in a certain grave space in the Colonial Cemetery.

The HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT minuted—Mr. Chan Yui Tong, brother of Chan Sai, is prepared to allow the latter to bury the remains of his mother in one of his grave spaces in the Colonial Cemetery where he has re-buried the remains of his own mother and other members of the family. Please circulate to members of the Board who, I understand, are prepared to agree to this arrangement, though they unanimously refused Mr. Chan Sai Kai's application for separate grave space.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—What is the depth of the present grave, and what will be the minimum space between the ground surface and the top of the coffin?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Approve subject to the Medical Officer of Health reporting no sanitary objection.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The death occurred in 1878, and therefore there is no sanitary objection to the transfer of the remains.

The PRESIDENT remarked that this was the same application that had come before the Board at a previous meeting, but was refused because it was pointed out to members that the brother of the applicant had already several grave spaces in the Colonial Cemetery. If the present applicant could put his mother's remains in one of the grave spaces already provided, the Board would consider the matter. He understood that all the relatives died sometime ago, and that they were no longer in coffins, but in ordinary pots. Whether the pots were in the cemetery or not he could not say.

Mr. HOOPER—In the Colonial Cemetery?

The PRESIDENT—I understand so.

Mr. HOOPER—In pots?

The PRESIDENT—I presume it was in a pot, but not in a coffin.

Mr. HOOPER—I don't quite follow. Do you mean to say that those interred in the Colonial Cemetery now were buried in coffins originally and then taken out and put in jars or pots?

The PRESIDENT—I cannot say, but the point I considered would be raised was whether there was any sanitary objection or not. If there are pots with only bones in, I presume there is no sanitary objection. The burials were as far back as 1882.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I move that the application be granted.

Mr. HOOPER—Provided there is sufficient space.

The PRESIDENT—The grave will not project above the ground.

Colonel BEDFORD—That is laid down in the Ordinance.

The application was granted.

POULTRY FRUIT STORE.

Mr. Au Yeung Kwong applied to the Board for a lease for five years of one of the two rooms in the Central Market formerly used for killing poultry, but now vacant. He intended to use the room for selling fruit.

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON reported that the rooms mentioned had been practically unoccupied since the new killing rooms were erected. They were used only at festival times, and were not then crowded. He thought it might be a good thing to let this as a stall for three years at the average rent of the other fruit stalls, and at the end of that time its value would be better known. There were not too many fruit stalls.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong minuted—I think the Veterinary Surgeon's recommendation should be adopted.

Mr. HOOPER—Has there not been some other application to rent this killing room, for a fruit or vegetable stall before?

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I agree with the Registrar-General. If my memory serves me. I think the rooms are very dark and not particularly well ventilated. If they are to be used as stores, it is possible some structural alterations should be made.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—Was this room not required by the poultry dealers for storing purposes, and did they not offer to pay for the use of it?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—The poultry dealers who were turned out have first claim.

The PRESIDENT moved that one of the killing rooms be let as a stall.

Mr. HOOPER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

The report of the Government Analyst relative to the public water supplies of the Colony for the month of July was submitted. His analyses of samples taken from Tytam and Pokfulam showed that both these reservoirs contained good drinking water. With regard to the Kowloon supply, he recommended that the water should be filtered before used for drinking.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality return for the week ended July 31st, based on a death rate per 1,000 per annum, showed that the death rate of the whole Colony for the week ending 24th ultimo was 23.1 and 21.9 for the week ended July 31st, as against 34.2 for the corresponding week of last year.

RAT RETURN.

The rat return for the week ended July 31st showed that out of 1,697 rats caught in Hongkong and Kowloon nine were found to be infected. During the succeeding week the capture was 1,510, and of these nine were infected.

DESPERATE FISHERMEN.

A STORY FROM LANTAO ISLAND.

An unusual disturbance aroused residents from their slumbers in the quiet little village on Lantau Island early on Friday morning. It appears that at about 3 a.m. on the morning mentioned seven Hoklo fishermen, armed with choppers, knives and bamboos, landed at the village unobserved, and approaching an unnumbered house at Shekshan, forced an entrance. The robbers apparently knew that there were two hawkers who carried a plentiful supply of cloth and a considerable sum of money staying at this house, and the object of their visit was to relieve these men of their wares and cash. They entered the house with wild shouts and proceeded to use their bamboos and choppers on the inmates until they were satisfied that the latter were thoroughly frightened. Then the hawkers were asked where they had stored their money and goods. They lost no time in showing their assailants, and the fishermen speedily appropriated the cloth and the cash and departed. Next morning it was reported to the police at Chungchau that the robbers had departed with \$400 worth of cloth, and \$29.50 in cash. Sergeant Gordon immediately instituted inquiries, the result being that two men were arrested with the amount stolen in their possession. The police also learned that the men who had taken the cloth had sailed away in the direction of Linting, which is in Chinese territory.

The two men arrested were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Aug. 16th and remanded.

A SANITARY PROSECUTION.

Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, proceeded against a storekeeper who carries on business at 81, Bonham Strand, for having in his possession tinned fish unfit for human consumption.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing, who appeared for the defendant, raised the defence that the fish was not for sale. It was stored in defendant's shop until such time as the owner could examine it.

His Worship imposed a nominal fine of \$5, and informed the defendant that he should have reported the matter to the Sanitary Board

HONGKONG WATERWORKS.

TYTAM TUNNEL SCHEME, FIRST SECTION.

In his Annual Report, the Director of Public Works writes:—These works, which have now been fully completed, form part of the scheme for the full development of the Tytam Valley Supply. They comprise the following:—

- (i.) A Storage Reservoir in the lower portion of the Tytam Valley, the permanent overflow level being 200 feet above Ordnance Datum.
- (ii.) A pumping station on the west shore of Tytam Bay.
- (iii.) A road from the Shauiwan-Stanley Road to near the Tytam Byewash Dam.
- (iv.) Access roads to the Pumping Station and to the gauge basin at the inlet to the Tytam tunnel and a path from the old Stanley Road round the shore of Tytam Bay to the pumping station.
- (v.) A rising main from the pumping station to the inlet to the Tytam tunnel.
- (vi.) A suction main from the storage reservoir to the pumping station.

The following is a description of the works:—

(i.) Storage Reservoir, designated Tytam Intermediate Reservoir. This reservoir has a capacity of 196 million gallons at permanent overflow level, which is 200 feet above Ordnance Datum, and, by inserting boards 2' 6" high in the overflow, its capacity can be increased to 213 million gallons. Its catchment area is 470 acres, but the water from a portion of it, 210 acres in extent, is intercepted by the Tytam West Catchwater. As the catchwater is inadequate, however, to convey all the water flowing from this area during heavy rainstorms, the reservoir derives some benefit from it, besides intercepting the subsoil water. The dam is constructed of cement concrete faced with rock-faced granite ashlar on the upstream face and partly with rubble and partly with dressed ashlar on the downstream face and is provided with an overflow 100 feet long about the centre of its length. The cement concrete, with the exception of the backing of the upstream ashlar face, tapering from 10 feet thick at the base of the dam to 5 feet thick at the crest, which is in the proportion of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, is mixed in the proportion of 6 to 1 and contains displacers. The height of the dam above the original stream bed is 90 feet and, from the lowest foundation level to the crest, 110 feet. A valve-well, containing four 10 inch draw-offs, connected with a 12-inch stand-pipe, which is in direct communication with the 18-inch suction main to the pumping station, is constructed in the dam and is surmounted with a valve-house. A Venturi meter (with recorder in the valve-house) registers the amount of water passed down to the pumps. The contents of the dam are:—

Cement Concrete ... 24,520 Cubic Yards.
Ashlar Masonry ... 47,755 " Feet.
Rubble Masonry ... 451 " Yards.

(ii.) Pumping Station. The pumping station has been erected on a site well below the proposed low level reservoir and excavated out of the hillside, the material so obtained being utilized to form a reclamation where junks can come alongside and discharge coal. The buildings are substantial structures and comprise a commodious engine house, boiler house, workshop and store. Quarters for a European overseer have been constructed on a site 100 feet above the station overlooking Tytam Bay, whilst those for the Chinese staff of engine drivers and stokers are situated close to the station. The main flue from the boiler house is carried up the hillside and terminates in a short shaft 61 feet in height, the total vertical height from the fire-grate to the top of the shaft being 135 feet.

Two sets of pumping engines and two boilers, supplied by Messrs. Tangye, Birmingham, have been installed. Each set is capable of raising $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons a day to the gauge basin at the inlet to the Tytam tunnel, 400 feet above Ordnance Datum; the engines have been so designed as to work alternatively from the proposed low-level reservoir or with a negative suction lift of from 100 to 200 feet when pumping water from the intermediate reservoir. The engines are triple-expansion, condensing, and run at $24\frac{1}{2}$ revolutions per minute with a steam pressure of 135 lb. per

square inch. The pumps, three in number, have 12-inch diameter rams and 30-inch stroke and are placed immediately under each cylinder, being driven direct from the piston rod cross-head by side rods straddling the crank shaft. The boilers, two in number, are of the Lancashire type and are fitted with super-heaters in the smoke chamber. An engine, supplied with steam from the main boilers, and a direct-driven dynamo of ample capacity have been installed for lighting the station. An overhead 5-ton travelling crane, capable of lifting any portion of the engines, spans the engine room.

(iii.) Road.—The road, whilst taking the rising main already laid and containing provision for a duplicate main to be laid later, also supersedes the old road which will be submerged when the low-level reservoir is constructed. It is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length and has a width of 20 feet for $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, where the main is laid under it, and of 12 feet where it has only to accommodate the traffic. The road has a continuous rising gradient, varying from 1 in 240 to 1 in 8, and is free from sharp bends so as to avoid excessive friction in the main when pumping is in progress. There are four large bridges (one with 3 spans of 50 feet, one with 3 spans of 20 and one of 30 feet, one with 6 spans of 20 feet and one with 2 spans of 20 and one of 30 feet), three cuttings over 60 feet deep and numerous massive retaining walls.

The bridges have a clear width of 13 feet between parapet walls. The piers, abutments and arches are constructed of cement concrete faced throughout with granite. The spandrels and haunches are filled in with lime concrete.

Wherever the road is on embankment, masonry piers have been carried up from the solid ground to support the mains.

(iv.) Access Roads.—These have been constructed to take the rising and suction mains. They are of an aggregate length of 1.33 miles and have widths of 6 and 12 feet.

(v.) Rising Main.—The rising main is 3,406 yards in length and consists of cast iron pipes 18 inches in diameter, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and 12 feet in length. The weight of each pipe is 19 cwt., the pipes being of uniform section throughout the whole length of the main so that no confusion should arise in laying them. Three sets of reflux, sluice, air and by pass valves and five washouts have been fixed at intervals in the rising main.

The rising main is laid in a trench 3 feet 6 inches deep, the joints being run with lead, 2½ inches deep, after the insertion of a strand of yarn.

(vi.) Suction Main.—The suction main is 2,416 yards in length, the pipes being the same as those used for the rising main. Two sets of sluice and air valves and two washouts have been provided on the suction main. The suction main is laid in a trench 2 feet 3 inches deep, the joints being run with lead, 1½ inches deep, after the insertion of a strand of yarn.

The cost of the works was as follows:—

(i.) Storage Reservoir, ...	\$383,435.14
(ii.) Pumping Station:—	
Preparation of site and erection of Buildings ...	\$86,465.55
Pumping engines and boilers (2 sets) ...	111,820.66
	198,286.21
(iii.) Road ...	154,507.57
(iv.) Access Roads ...	
(v.) Rising Main ...	135,094.97
(vi.) Suction Main ...	
Miscellaneous Charges ...	24,815.75
	\$896,139.64

The foregoing is exclusive of a sum of \$142,025.44 spent on the temporary pumping plant, which was brought into operation on the 1st November, 1903, and dismantled in May, 1907, and on preliminary works, surveys, borings, well-sinking, &c., principally at the site of the proposed low-level dam.

1908. Estimates, ...	\$15,000.00
Total Estimates, ...	862,000.00
1908 Expenditure ...	13,692.81
Expenditure to 31.12.08 ...	1,038,165.08

MISCELLANEOUS WATERWORKS.

The following are the principal items of expenditure under this heading, representing in some cases only a part of the cost of the works

in consequence of their execution extending over more than one year:—

(i.) New Service Reservoir at 750 feet level, West Point, Construction of reservoir (capacity 448,000 gallons), completed ...	\$11,544
Extending 8 inches rising main to 448,000 gallons, completed ...	401
	\$11,945
(iii.) New 8 inches rising main to 600 feet service reservoir, West Point, completed ...	322
(iii.) Conduit Road Extension—6 inches main from 750 feet service reservoir along Hatton and Conduit Roads, Queen's Gardens and May Road as far as Inland Lot 1,772 (except the portion in front of Queen's Gardens houses which was laid in 1907), completed, ...	13,705
(iv.) Substituting 5 inches rising main in Peak Road for old 3 inches and 4 inches, completed, ...	3,307
(v.) Laying 4 inches main in diverted portion of Shauiwan Road past Shauiwan Marine Lots 2-10, &c., completed, ...	1,130
	\$830,409

1908. Estimates, ... \$33,500.00

1908. Expenditure ... 30,852.34

Item (i). This new reservoir, the reason for which was explained in last year's report, was completed and brought into use in August, but there was still a balance outstanding at the close of the year. Great improvement has been effected in the supply to the houses above Conduit Road and, in the event of fire occurring in this neighbourhood, an efficient supply of water should now be found available.

The reservoir is constructed principally of cement concrete, the walls being faced with brick in cement and the covering consisting of brick arches supported on brick pillars. Its capacity is about 448,000 gallons.

The district supplied from it comprises the whole of Conduit Road, Queen's Gardens, May Road and the group of houses on Peak Road above Queen's Gardens. The latter were formerly dependent upon a small tank of some 12,000 gallons capacity, which would have been found quite inadequate in the event of an outbreak of fire or of any serious breakdown in the pumping plant. On completion of the new reservoir, it became possible to dispense with the one behind Inland Lot, 1568 and the area on which the latter is situated was sold to the owner of the lot mentioned.

ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY OF HONGKONG, LTD.

The balance sheet of the Electric Traction Company of Hongkong, Ltd., shows that the traffic receipts for the year 1908 amounted to £36,923 3s. 5d. (converted at 1s. 9½d. per dollar), and the working expenses amounted to £23,764 3s. 8d., showing a balance in favour of £13,506 1s. 9d. Of this amount £4,000 has been added to reserve for depreciation and renewals, leaving a balance of £9,506 1s. 9d. to be carried down in addition to £530 9s. 4d. balance brought forward from 1907. After payment of debenture interest amounting to £9,751 there remained at the end of 1908 a balance of profit and loss account amounting to £286 11s. 1d.

The capital of the Company is £325,000 in £1 shares fully paid, and 5 per cent. mortgage debentures charged upon the undertaking and all property of the Company have been issued to the extent of £195,000. No dividend was paid to shareholders. The cost of the tramway undertaking including land and outlay on construction and equipment is given as £523,530 18s. 1d. The reserve for depreciation and renewals now amounts to £16,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REVENUE FROM THE LIQUOR TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."

Macao, August 15th, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—As the Hon. Mr. Stewart stated, when proposing the postponement of the debate on the new Liquor Ordinance, that it is only fair that the general public should have an opportunity of expressing their opinion through the medium of the local Press, with your permission I would respectfully make a few suggestions, which—if adopted by the Government—would, I believe, have a more far-reaching effect than the new proposed ordinance, would produce all the revenue required, and yet would not be so unjustly severe on the hotel keepers, wine and spirit merchants and wholesale dealers.

My suggestion is as follows:—On every bottle of wine, spirits or beer, manufactured or bottled in the Colony, and sold for consumption in the Colony, place an adhesive stamp over the cork in such a manner that it must be destroyed when the bottle is opened.

1st. Say, on every bottle of wine or spirits—a 10 cent stamp; say, on every bottle of beer or stout—a 3 cent stamp, and as I think the teetotalers should also contribute to the revenue of the Colony, place on every bottle of aerated water bottled in the Colony and sold for consumption in the Colony, a 1 cent stamp.

2nd. On every bottle or case of wine, beer, spirits, aerated or mineral waters, imported into the Colony, make the wholesale dealers charge a surtax of, say, 5 per cent., 7½ per cent., or 10 per cent.—whichever would be necessary to make up the deficiency required—upon their ordinary list prices, for all such wines, &c., that are sold for consumption within the Colony. The wholesale dealers to send in a return every month to the Government of the actual number of bottles sold and the actual amount of the surtax received. The wholesale trade is in the hands of reputable firms, and there would be a very slight chance of false returns being sent in, but the Government could make the penalty of doing so very severe, such as imposing a heavy fine and cancelling the licence.

By adopting this scheme, the extra revenue required would come out of the pockets of the actual consumer.

And the point of the Clubs, which was touched upon by the Hon. Mr. Osborne, and which has been a sore point in the Colony for many years, would be rectified, as not only would the members of the numerous clubs in the Colony contribute directly to the revenue, but also the numerous public and private boarding-houses, so-called "private hotels," and all other houses where liquor is consumed would contribute their fair share.

The hotels would not then be compelled to raise the price of their drinks to any great extent, if they had to raise it at all, and the higher price they would have to pay for their wines would be equivalent to a quite sufficient increase in the licence fee.

Now as regards liquors imported into the Colony by clubs, messes and private individuals, and who at present pay no tax to the Government, I would suggest that all the shipping companies be required to send in to the Government a return of all wines, beers, spirits, &c., imported into the Colony by their vessels, with name of the consignee, and the Government should cause that person—if the liquors are sold or consumed in the Colony—to pay the tax imposed.

It seems to me that this scheme could be carried out at very little expense to the Colony, no cumbersome system of Custom House officialdom or bonded stores would be required, and Hongkong would still be a "free port." Most of the work and expense of collecting the revenue would fall upon the merchants and importers, wholesale dealers, local bottlers and aerated water manufacturers, while the revenue would come out of the pockets of the general public, who are the proper people to pay it.

This scheme is naturally very much in the rough and would have to be thoroughly worked out and amplified, but, as I said at the first, I

believe it would bring in all the revenue required and not be unjustly hard on any individual company, firm or person.—I have the honour to be, Dear Sir, Yours respectfully,

BRITISH COLONIAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, August 16th, 1908

SIR,—There is much controversy going on just now as to how the Colony is to "raise the wind," since the best source—through opium—is practically closed. The consensus of opinion appears to be that liquor licences should be increased to make up the revenue now lost to us on opium.

That there is everything to be said for the fact that our revenue must be increased there is no doubt, and there is no more doubt that liquor is the next best thing to tax after opium, because it is in general demand and is a luxury, except for medicinal purposes.

Many men will aver they take alcohol medicinally only, but how many of them take it "under Doctor's orders"? Perhaps one might ask how many of them are "under Doctor's orders" not to take it—or to "cut it down"?

However, as I state above, it being generally conceded that the revenue is to be raised on liquor, the next question is How (a) without putting undue strain on any one section of the community, (b) to collect effectually, (c) to collect cheaply.

I propose to take native wines or spirits first, and think same may be dismissed shortly by the institution of a Spirit Farm on the lines of the Opium Farm. Both articles being used by natives, the latter are best able to collect. In the case of opium it has been proved. The method of collection from the Government's point of view may be considered effectual and cheap.

As regards liquors for European consumption, increase of revenue may not be gained by increased amount of "Publican's" or "Grocer's" licences. In your leader this morning you show that such will lead to extinction of many of the smaller licences and consequent loss of revenue to the Government. There is no doubt of the truth of this. It is better to have five licences each paying \$1,000 than two each paying \$2,000. Apart altogether from the reduction in the number there is the loss of revenue resulting from vacant houses to be considered. It is not good to put undue strain on the licencees, although the effectiveness and cheapness of collection by merely increasing licences cannot be maintained.

There are other methods, however. One is the establishment of a Bonded Warehouse, which, as has been pointed out by His Excellency, is the "thin end of the wedge," and takes away from Hongkong the right to be styled a free port.

In looking round for other methods, I suggest that the tax might be collected at Home before export, and the proceeds paid into the Treasury at Home for account of the Hongkong Government.

As is well known, all liquors at home, whether destined for export or not, are stored in a bonded warehouse, and when required for export a Customs permit to ship—called, I believe, a "Pricking Note"—is issued by the Customs officer to the shipper, and is attached to the usual shipper's order; and without the Pricking Note goods are not allowed in the dock where the ship is loading. My suggestion is that Pricking Notes should be stamped, the amount of the stamp to vary according to the goods shipped: a case of whisky should not bear so large a stamp as a case of champagne. The amounts collected in stamp fees to be credited to the Hongkong Government and the total to be deducted from the amount due from the Colony to the Imperial Government.

It may be argued: "But you put the cost of collection on to the Imperial Government." The answer is: "There is not much cost attaching to stamping a document. If the Imperial Government want some payment, it may add, say, 3d. to the stamp for itself. It should be prepared to do it for nothing, seeing it has taken away so large a source of the Colony's revenue."

So much for the effectiveness and cost of collection, as far as shipments from the United Kingdom are concerned.

Then comes the question of shipments from ports other than the United Kingdom. We could not well get the Imperial Government to collect this, and therefore collection would have to be made as follows: All shipments of wines, spirits and beer from ports other than in the United Kingdom would have to be accompanied by a Consular Certificate stating that a tax (as arranged) had been collected for account of the Hongkong Government. The Consuls may add something for their cost of collection. The steamers' agents in Hongkong would be instructed not to countersign bills of lading without presentation of the Consular Certificate.

For Australia, and other self-governed Colonies having Customs Houses, arrangements could be made similar to those suggested for shipments from the United Kingdom.

Shipments from Singapore and other Straits ports form a difficulty. They could be included in the Spirit Farm—although not simply. Or captains could be called upon to declare at the Hongkong Harbour Office when carrying wines, spirits or beer, and the Harbour Master would issue a certificate, after collection of "duty" (or whatever the tax is to be called), without presentation of which the steamers' agents would not countersign bills of lading. If Singapore came into line with Hongkong in the matter, the difficulty would be solved, as the "duty" would have been prepaid at port of shipment. The only point is that Singapore would get the duty on spirits, &c., transhipped at Singapore for Hongkong. But it would not pay shippers of cargo to deliberately tranship at Singapore, and Hongkong, therefore, would not lose much and its sister Crown Colony would get what it did lose.

Lastly, comes the question of Hongkong's Outports: Canton, Macao, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, for which places Hongkong is merely a transshipping centre. I think shipments destined for those places had better all arrive duty paid also. Let them all help on the good work. I cannot imagine any of those ports taking a full cargo of liquors and so avoiding transshipment at Hongkong. On the other hand, fairplay is a good thing, and refunds could be made upon presentation of Customs Certificates should outports make too much fuss about paying double duty.

There could be no refunds for Macao, as it is a free port.

That is all I have to write at the moment. I have tried to show a principle whereby all consumers shall bear the tax and by which the local licencees shall not have to speculate upon the number of his customers and the size of their thirsts, to enable him to make up his mind whether the business is worth the outlay. Also I have endeavoured to evolve a system by which the tax may be imposed and cheaply collected, with as much avoidance as possible of "the thin edge of a wedge," depriving Hongkong of the right to style itself a "free port."

I believe the "Principle" or "System" is sound, although perhaps a coach and four could be driven through the methods proposed to work it. If so, let another assist in closing up gaps.

Yours faithfully,
OBSERVER.

We have been asked what excise duties are charged in Singapore. The reply is that spirituous and fermented liquors used or consumed in any of the settlements of the Colony are liable to the following Excise Duties, payable to the Spirit Farmers, viz.:—

On all Spirituous Liquors.....	\$2.40 per gallon.
" Sparkling Wines.....	1.50 "
" Still Wines.....	1.00 "
" All other intoxicating Liquors (excepting native wines and spirits and toddy) ...	0.24 "

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS"]

Hongkong, 17th August, 1909.

SIR,—Reading the correspondence in the columns of the Local Press anent the burning question of the hour, i.e., the Colony's increased taxation, it occurs to me that our demagogues have left out of their estimates the veiled

promise, by the Home Government, of a probable reduction of the Colony's Military Contribution.

I think it is rather giving the show away to rush into proposals to entirely meet the revenue deficit in the ways suggested in such correspondence as I have read. Better to find out first what is actually needed and then discuss how that amount is to be acquired. There is little use in slapping our pockets now and saying we are rich: we will probably regret having done so later on when the University fund becomes a *fait accompli*.

Enclosing my card,—I am, yours respectfully,
CREPUSCULUM.

[Our correspondent's letter is evidently written under a misapprehension, but, as it may be shared by many others, it is necessary to reiterate that the Government is at present not taking into consideration what the Colony will lose in revenue from opium. That cannot be ascertained until the new tender for the farm is accepted and the Imperial Government announces the exact amount of its promised "substantial contribution." Apart from the loss of opium revenue the Government calculates that there will be a deficit of some four lakhs of dollars, as was the case last year. To avoid taxation last year the Government put the Civil Servants' Widows and Orphans Fund into the general exchequer, but this year no such funds are available, and consequently the Government must have recourse to increased taxation in some form. The proposal now announced is, we fear, not the only one of the kind we are destined to hear of, as it is not estimated to yield more than two and a half lakhs at the most, while many believe a tenth of that sum will be found much nearer the mark.—ED.]

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Judging by the correspondence in the local Press, the suggested increase of licence fees appears to be causing considerable interest. It is undoubtedly necessary for the Government to raise more revenue to meet the expenses of the Colony, and it is their duty to obtain same from sources which will least affect any particular section of the community.

Will this measure meet the case? From my point it will not. I am a householder and a consumer of wines and spirits; my neighbour is a teetotaler, and therefore I shall be paying part of his proportion for the upkeep of the Colony, and I suggest, to make it a just taxation, distribute it over the whole community by putting it on property.

I am surprised the Government have not the pluck to put the necessary amount on the rates, but if there is any truth in what one hears outside, it would appear the strings are being pulled by our unofficial members on the Council. I hope this is not the case; still it is common talk.

It would be interesting to know when the rates were last increased, also the additional revenue obtainable if raised 5 per cent.—Yours, &c.,

IMPARTIAL.

THE LACK OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AT THE PEAK.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—As a newcomer to this Colony, I cannot but express my admiration of the many benefits which have accrued from an enlightened and progressive government, and, generally, I think the past and present men in authority are to be, not only congratulated, but also regarded with appreciation for the results of their labours.

There is one thing, however, which strikes me very forcibly which is not to the Colony's credit: I refer to the lack of any educational facilities for children in the Peak District. Surely, sir, this is an omission of no little importance, and one which I submit ought to receive early if not immediate attention, for, whilst the cost involved would only be small, the benefit to the children concerned would be incalculable.

Judging from my short experience of the place, what appears to be necessary is a Kindergarten School, where children between the ages of five and seven years can be taught in a scientific manner to use the senses and the mind so that when they pass on to the next step in their education they will unconsciously and without effort bring all their faculties into service, thus not only developing them but also making the task of learning easier and more interesting.

Apart from the educational advantages, the natural but easy discipline of a Kindergarten School would be very useful, and of a kind that a child can never receive at home.

The hours at Kindergarten Schools are only short, and many children regard it as a punishment to be kept away, thus proving that the system is not only useful but a real pleasure.

The children at Home have the advantages of these schools, and it would certainly appear to be a short-sighted and unkind policy not to provide them for the benefit and pleasure of the children here.

It is common knowledge that, whereas it may not be desirable to send children to an ordinary school at an early age, yet the kindergarten system, which is one of developing the faculties through play, can be taught to young children without detriment, whilst the self-control and self-discipline required in the play, work to the child's lasting benefit. It comes at an age, too, in which, whilst the mental effort of an elementary school is not desirable, discipline and occupation of some kind is certainly wanted.

To teach the kindergarten system properly it is essential that a certificated kindergarten mistress shall be employed, for if incorrectly taught it might be detrimental to the child's interest and development.

Should it be desired, a preparatory or elementary school could be associated with the kindergarten, but, judging by the children at the Peak, the latter is of the greatest importance. I would therefore submit, sir, through the medium of your columns, that the Government should undertake to provide a school of the character referred to without delay.

The school fees could be fixed so as to make a school very largely self-supporting, and a temporary engagement of a certificated mistress and temporary premises could be arranged for until something permanent can be done. In this manner the cost to the Government would be very small, no time would be lost in providing this very necessary facility, and the educational authorities could feel their way before entering on a more permanent scheme.

In this letter the subject has been merely touched upon, but it is hoped that any others who are interested in children may write to you on the subject making any suggestions that may occur to them.—I am, Sir, etc.,

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

P.S.—I might add that I have already spoken to a number of people on the subject, and it meets with general and enthusiastic approval. The only person who did not approve was a *bachelor*!

UTTERING COUNTERFEIT COIN.

A native appeared before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Aug 16 on two charges of uttering counterfeit coin. The defendant, it appears, had swindled many residents of Yau-mati before being brought to book. He carried with him a large number of forged five dollar bills, and his method of passing them was very ingenious. He would approach the owner of a house and intimate that he wanted a cubicle. The owner would state his price, the defendant would agree to pay a dollar as bargain money, and hand over one of the spurious five dollar bills. The owner would return the change, as desired, in twenty-cent pieces, and then the man in search of new premises would change his mind and ask for the return of his note, and at the same time return to the owner counterfeit twenty-cent pieces in place of the good money he had received as change. The same defendant was previously convicted before Mr. Hazeland and yesterday the second magistrate sentenced him to three months' imprisonment with hard labour and four hours' stocks.

DISTURBANCE NEAR THE KOWLOON DOCKS.

Considerable excitement prevailed in Shang On Lane, near the Kowloon Docks, on Sunday afternoon, when a number of Chinese and Filipino seamen from different vessels in dock had a free fight. Trouble was evidently expected, for a number of the Filipinos arrested were found to be in possession of lead and sandbags. So far as can be learned, the Chinese started the affray by assailing the Filipinos with a volley of stones. The latter retaliated, and used their weapons of defence with serious effect, but the timely arrival of the police prevented any mortal injuries. When the police were observed approaching the rioters made a rush for the docks, and a Chinese detective who attempted to bar the way was felled by a sandbag. As a result of inquiries, however, two Chinese and four Filipinos were arrested, and were placed before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy yesterday. The Chinese, who were charged with disorderly behaviour, were fined \$25 each. Two of the Filipinos, for carrying fighting implements, were fined \$10 each. The third, for assault and disorderly behaviour, was fined \$25, and the fourth, who attempted to arrest a prisoner, was also ordered to pay a fine of \$25.

WANTED WORK AND FOOD.

Few Chinese are more outspoken than the native Inspector Collett placed before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Aug. 19 on a charge of stealing a pair of trousers from a house at Shaukiwan. When asked to plead the defendant promptly admitted the charge, informing the Court that as he had no work to do and was hungry he took the pair of trousers with the intention of pawning them and buying rice. He appeared to be quite satisfied with the sentence passed on him by the Magistrate, three weeks' hard labour and six hours' stocks, and was heard to remark as he left the Court that he would now have work and food for a time.

FRENCH SAILOR DROWNED.

The danger of overloading a small cutter was emphasised on Monday when R. O. Rodolfe de Messina, one of the crew of the French mail steamer *Ernest Simons*, was drowned in the harbour near Yau-mati. The deceased, with three other seamen, took the cutter to Laichikok to procure a load of sand to clean the decks of the steamer. It appears that they overloaded the small craft so that when she left Laichikok she was down in the water nearly to the gunwale. On the way back a stiff westerly breeze was encountered and the vessel heeled over before the sail could be lowered. Water immediately poured in and in a few seconds the cutter had sunk, and the seamen were left struggling in the water. A water police pinnace was in the vicinity, and as soon as those on board observed the accident they immediately went to the rescue of the sailors, and succeeded in hauling three men out of the water. The deceased, however, went under before the arrival of the police, and did not come to the surface again. The body has not yet been recovered.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF CONSUL-GENERAL RUBLEE.

We regret to learn that Mr. William A. Rublee, who has recently been re-appointed United States Consul-General at Hongkong in succession to Dr Wilder, was lying seriously ill at Vienna a month ago. A Vienna telegram to the American newspapers, dated the 14th ult., reads:—William A. Rublee, of Milwaukee, the retiring American Consul-General here, yesterday underwent the operation of laparotomy at a private sanitarium for the relief of a stomach trouble of ten years standing. His condition to-night is reported as very unfavourable. Professor Schnitzler, who performed the operation, said to-day that he was not yet fully able to diagnose the case; but he had ascertained that there was no cancer.

SECOND MATE SENT TO PRISON.

ANNOYED LADY PASSENGERS.

At the Marine Court on Aug. 19, before Lieut. Beckwith, Marine Magistrate—Charles Stancliffe, second mate of the British s.s. *Ashtabula*, was proceeded against by Captain Harding, of the same ship, for wilful disobedience.

Complainant stated that the *Ashtabula* belonged to the Anglo-American Oil Co. While the ship was at Yokohama on July 20th defendant went to Wright's Hotel hopelessly drunk and constituted himself a nuisance by going into bedrooms, and using filthy language. Next morning he was still drunk, and witness ordered him to go on board at once, but he took no notice. When complainant went on board at six o'clock he found Stancliffe away from his place of duty, but he turned to next morning, when witness cautioned him, but did not "log" him, as it was his first offence. On reaching Shanghai witness went ashore, leaving Stancliffe in charge, but when he returned at night, accompanied by his wife and another lady, he found the second mate very drunk and using filthy language. About midnight complainant came on deck and discovered the second mate with his head down a skylight and flashing a hand-lamp on a lady who was sleeping below. When Stancliffe saw the master he ran forward. Witness closed the skylight and warned the chief officer that the second mate was drunk. At five o'clock next morning witness entered the saloon, where there was a lady very frightened, who complained of having been constantly annoyed during the night by the second officer. At seven o'clock witness sent the chief officer for the second mate, but he returned saying Stancliffe was too drunk. Complainant went to his room, got him out, and suspended him from duty. As he considered Stancliffe was a danger to the safe navigation of the ship he reported him to the Marine Magistrate at Hongkong.

Chief Officer D. Bertie stated that the defendant relieved him for night duty on August 11th at Shanghai. At 11 p.m. on that date witness saw the defendant, and considered him fit for duty. On August 12th, when he was sent to bring the second officer before the captain, he could not get him up. Witness was in the saloon when the log was read over to the second officer, and considered the latter was then stupidly drunk and unfit for duty.

A lady passenger from Shanghai to Hongkong testified to hearing the second officer using filthy language when she boarded the vessel. At about midnight on August 11th the second officer entered her cabin, and seeing her awake went to the saloon and put the lights out. Witness locked her door after he left and he tried to open it. Not being successful he went to the skylight and continued to flash a light on her all night. She was so frightened that she dressed and sat up.

Other evidence was heard as to the condition of the defendant on the dates mentioned.

Defendant denied that he was drunk on July 20th at Yokohama. He admitted being at Wright's Hotel on that night, but said he did not see the master until noon next day. He then asked complainant for money to go on board. He went on board about five p.m. and was on duty at six p.m., but as there was nothing to do he went to lie down. He denied all statements made by the lady passenger and the master as to his being a nuisance and annoying passengers.

His Worship found the defendant guilty of the charges preferred against him, and stated that he considered the second officer's conduct a disgrace to the certificate he held under the Board of Trade. Defendant would therefore be sentenced to 42 days' imprisonment without hard labour.

Two natives were charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland yesterday with assaulting a forest guard. The guard arrested another Chinese for cutting trees on Crown land above Conduit Road, but was prevented from taking the prisoner to a police station through the alleged interference of the defendants. After hearing the evidence his Worship discharged one of the defendants and sentenced the other to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

A LONG JOB.

In June, 1906, a Commission was appointed to take the measurements of the land on which each house in the City of Macao stands, and the officials appointed were granted a handsome extra monthly allowance for their services in this connection. The *Boletim Oficial* now announces that the official who has had charge of the work has been relieved and a clerk of the Fazenda appointed in his stead. I learn that "more than two contos" are spent yearly on this work. It has been going on for three years and is likely to come to an end only when no more money is available for "extra remuneration."

WHY NOT WIRELESS?

Some years ago Taipa was connected with Macao by telegraph, but owing to the shallowness of the harbour the cable has been frequently broken by passing steamers or junks. Repairs were such an expensive item that the Government at last grew tired of repairing the cable. Lately, I observe signs of an intention to repair it once more. Why not go in for wireless telegraphy? It would be cheaper and better.

VASCO DA GAMA MONUMENT.

This statue has now been put in position in the Avenida Vasco da Gama and the unveiling will probably take place on Sunday.

RETIRED.

The gunboat *Rio Lima* has been placed on the "retired list," and her armament is now being removed. I understand she will become a hulk for the storage of war material.

THAT "GRAB."

The grab which was purchased sometime ago to clear the harbour of silt is already laid up, the reason given being that the working of the implement is not perfectly understood.

It is stated that fifty men are coming out from Portugal to be employed on the harbour works. They are protégés, no doubt, of the Republican Party.

THE NEW GUNBOAT.

Guns are coming out from France for the new river gunboat *Macau*.

A COSTLY MAP.

A map of Macao made by General Castello Branco & Co. is about to be published. Upwards of ten contos have been spent on this work.

UNPROTECTED ELECTRIC WIRES.

A young man has just had his left arm badly burnt through catching hold of an electric wire. It is probable that amputation will be necessary. When will the authorities see that these wires are properly insulated, or have them put underground?

SURVEYS IN HONGKONG.

The Director of Public Works in his annual report says:

Many surveys of considerable extent were undertaken for the purpose of defining the boundaries of lots or preparing sale or lease plans. The most extensive works of this nature were the surveys of 36 Squatter Villages which took more than one surveyor's time for the whole year, the completion of the survey of Deep Bay, which occupied a surveyor over three months, and a survey of the whole of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's property at Quarry Bay which, taking the combined time of surveyors engaged, occupied over six months' time for one surveyor. In addition to these, a certain amount of triangulation work to form the foundation of a trigonometrical survey of Hongkong and Kowloon was carried out, and extensive surveys were made of the South-Eastern portion of Kowloon Peninsula in connection with railway work and of several blocks of land held by the Military Authorities for the purpose of determining boundaries and areas. A survey was also prepared of the Naval Properties in the vicinity of Macdonnell Road, (re-named Canton Road), Kowloon, for the issue of leases.

Seeing that such extensive surveys have had to be undertaken, it was decided that in future uniform scales of 50 feet to an inch (1/600) and 200 feet to an inch (1/2400) should be adopted for the maps of the whole Colony, thus getting rid of difficulties hitherto experienced owing to

the variety of scales in use. The whole of Hongkong, Kowloon Peninsula and New Kowloon has been divided into Ordnance Sheets and the survey of Kowloon is being pushed on with a view of replacing the existing map, which is on the (1/2500) scale.

KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AMOY.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council, held at the Board Room, the 27th July, 1909.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), J. S. Fenwick, W. Kruse, Lim Nee Kar, J. Mencarini, S. Orugama, N. Wilson, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

Mr. Lim Nee Kar was introduced and takes his seat as Chinese Member of the Council.

THE SECRETARY'S AGREEMENT.

After discussion, it is decided to fix the period of notice to be given either by the Council or the Secretary, to terminate the latter's agreement with the Council, at six months.

SMALL POX AND CATTLE DISEASE.

The Secretary reports that enquiries have been made concerning (1) small pox on the Island, and (2) disease amongst the cattle, with the result that there is found to be no foundation for such rumours, which, as regards the cattle, may have originated in the fact that a farmer was prosecuted and convicted for selling a cow for consumption unfit for human food, the purchaser, who afterwards sold the animal in Amoy, being also proceeded against and fined.

SAMPAN LICENCES.

A communication is read from the Haifangting requesting the Council to order the Kulangsu sampanmen to register their sampans in the Haifangting's yamen, and to carry special licence boards issued by that official. It was decided to inform the Haifangting that the Council cannot comply with his request, as the Council considers that as the Kulangsu sampans already carry licence boards, with the number plainly marked in both Chinese and foreign characters, such boards are ample for purposes of identification, whether on the Kulangsu or the Amoy side, and that no good purpose would be served by compelling these sampanmen to carry two licence boards; moreover, it would be a distinct hardship to call on these men to pay two licence fees. The Haifangting is also to be requested to issue such orders as will prevent Goh Pek and other "watchers" from interfering with licensed sampanmen belonging to the International Settlement of Kulangsu.

A COAL DUST NUISANCE.

A letter was read from Mr. A. B. Craggs and others residing in the neighbourhood of the coal yard owned by Mr. Tong Tai, complaining of the nuisance caused by the coal dust. The Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Tong Tai of the complaint, and request him to have the coal heap regularly sprinkled with water, and then covered with matting. Should he fail to carry out this request, the Council will reluctantly be compelled to proceed against him in his Consular Court.

THE DEATH OF MR. GARDINER.

The Chairman referred in feeling terms to the loss the foreign community and Council had sustained by the death of Mr. A. F. Gardiner, who had served on the Council for over four years.

POLICE REPORT.

The Capt. Superintendent of Police reported that the following cases had been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—Summonses.—Assault, 20; allowing pigs and cattle to stray, 12; illegally removing property, 3; debt, 5; throwing rubbish, &c., into the public drains, 4; damaging property, 8; creating a disturbance, 1; using abusive language, 1. Summary Arrests.—Theft, 5; assault, 9; creating a disturbance, 3; breach of M. R. (disorderly house), 2; breach of Sampan Regulations, 2; illegally removing gravel, &c., from the foreshore, 3; quitting service without giving lawful notice, 1; drunk and incapable, 1; being a rogue and a vagabond, 1.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China opened a Sub-Agency of the Bank at Klang, in the Federated Malay States, on the 20th ult.

DEPARTURE OF CAPTAIN C. V. LLOYD.

Among the passengers who left Hongkong on Saturday by the *Empress of Japan* was Captain C. V. Lloyd, who has retired after twenty-four years' service on the Hongkong-Canton river boats of the China Navigation Company. For twenty-one years Captain Lloyd was in command of the large and comfortable river steamer *Hankow*, whose career was ended in October, 1906, by a fire which broke out on board shortly after her return one night from Canton. Captain Lloyd, who had always enjoyed the full confidence of the owners and the travelling public, was then given the command of the Company's steamer *Fatsan*, and remained in her down to a couple of weeks ago, when he entered upon a retirement which his numerous friends hope he may long live to enjoy with his family, who have for many years lived in England.

Captain Lloyd's familiar figure will be greatly missed both in Hongkong and Canton. His long experience caused him to be frequently consulted on questions relating to navigation between the two ports, and his views always carried weight in an argument on such questions. As many well know, Captain Lloyd had a facile pen, and a well-stored mind. His little brochure descriptive of the trip from Hongkong to Canton by the Pearl River, which he called "A Book for the Globetrotter" is well worth reading alike on account of its literary merits and the perennial interest of the information it contains.

DARING ROBBERY.

On the 14th instant a native entered 149, Hollywood Road, which is occupied by two Chinese women, and surprised one of the residents by entering a cubicle where she was lying on a lounge. The woman had little time for surprise, however, for the intruder, after throwing pepper in her eyes, made an attempt to bind her hands. She succeeded in wrenching herself from his grip, and raised loud cries of "save life," which aroused the people on the floor above and brought a *lukong* on the scene. As soon as the robber heard a stampede overhead he dashed down the stairs, but the *lukong* was waiting beneath and secured the runaway. The woman discovered later that she had been robbed of four gold ornaments valued at \$60, but these were recovered.

REPATRIATION PROBLEMS.

The Registrar-General in his annual report states that the most difficult question in connection with assisted Chinese male emigration during the year has been that of the repatriation of those coolies who have been either rejected by the office or doctor on account of their inferior physique, or induced to leave their homes through misrepresentations. Who was to bear the cost of their repatriation? At first the Tung Wah were called upon to do so, and did so with great reluctance, to the amount of \$3,411. This arrangement did not appear to be altogether equitable, and towards the close of the year I arranged that the boarding-house keeper should be made responsible for cost of repatriation, leaving him to recover from the broker. The Tung Wah, as before, has done the actual repatriation and has sent in the bill to this office. The Emigration Officer has then called upon the boarding-house keepers to refund the amount, and they have done so without a murmur.

It is hardly necessary to add that if they can escape free of the consequences, that is, the cost of repatriation, runner and boarding-house keeper have no interest in keeping up the standard of coolie. If he slips through the Registrar-General's office a profit is made. If he fails to pass they suffer no loss.

The number of Boarding Houses for assisted Emigrants is 29, as compared with 24 last year, when the business as regulated by the new Ordinance was still in its early stages.

There appears to be comparatively little trickery practised in the trade, and the majority of the boarding-house keepers act straightforwardly in their dealings with this office.

SHIPPING NOTES.

Much controversy has arisen of late in connection with the substitution of Chinese for British crews in ships of the mercantile marine. According to statistics just received from the Board of Trade by the Imperial Merchant Service Guild, the number of Chinese shipped at eighteen of the principal ports in the United Kingdom during the years 1906, 1907, and 1908 are 3,190, 4,952, and 4,463 respectively. From this of course it would appear that the new language test for seamen, imposed by the Board of Trade, has arrested the influx of Chinese seamen in our ships. An interesting feature in connection with this matter has just been brought to the notice of the secretary by one of the members of the Guild relative to a curious law or belief which prevails in China. It is said that if a Chinaman saves the life of another he has, by Chinese law, to keep him and feed him for the rest of his life. This, this Guild's correspondent remarks, is rather the reverse of Western ideas, but explains to a large extent why Chinamen are not of much use in cases of emergency. He quotes the following personal experience: "In the steamer of which I was chief officer, Chinese firemen were employed. We had the misfortune to sink another steamer, and although boat-drill was held regularly every week, these firemen would not attempt in any way to save life, this being left to the British officers and sailors. I did not understand their reluctance to take part in the rescue, as there was so very little danger connected with it. I now believe that the law existing in China of having to keep a man on saving his life was the cause of the reluctance of the firemen referred to." It will be of interest to watch in the future whether such a characteristic again displays itself; if so, it will be a further illustration of the dangers of Chinese crews.

On the reappointment of the Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee by the President of the Board of Trade, the Imperial Merchant Service Guild were invited by the Board of Trade to nominate a representative to sit on the committee. The guild have decided to nominate Captain George Nelson Hampson as their representative. Captain Hampson on his recent retirement from the sea was Commodore Captain in the West African fleet of steamers, owned by Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Co., in which he served for over 28 years. Captain Hampson is a member of the management committee of the guild, and a former chairman of the advisory committee now merged in the management committee.

Some kind of trouble seems to have occurred between the Toyo Kisen Kaisha and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., which have hitherto worked in conjunction. The *Osaka Mainichi* states that the manager of the San Francisco branch of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha left San Francisco on the 27th ultimo for Japan, and that the object of his visit to Tokyo is said to be the cancelling of the agreement between the company and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The *Osaka* journal adds that owing to the depression in the marine business the Pacific Mail Company has repeatedly acted in defiance of the agreement in order to secure freight, and in retaliation the Toyo Kisen Kaisha has decided to cancel the agreement with the American company. If the agreement is cancelled the Toyo Kisen Kaisha will be unable to maintain the connection of its steamers with the railways in America. This will place the company in a very disadvantageous position, but if the action of the Pacific Mail Company were passed over, it is claimed, that the company would act in a still more arbitrary manner and the Toyo Kisen Kaisha would be involved in an even more disadvantageous position than by the disconnection. Thus the company is placed in a very embarrassing situation. As the *Japan Chronicle* remarks, it seems a curious dispute as related in the Japanese papers.

Another Japanese newspaper denies this story, which appears to have been based on a telegram from San Francisco, but states that the relations between the American and the Japanese Company have not been as correct as they might be. A cancellation of the con-

tract, however, is impossible. The San Francisco agent for the T.K.K. is coming to Japan, says this journal, in order to report to the Company the result of the negotiations between the T.K.K. and the Mexican Government concerning the subsidy question and the connection of railway and steamship services in Mexico. The T.K.K. has agreed to cause its steamers to call at Mexican ports six times a year and the Mexican Government offer a subsidy of Y. 10,000 each time.

The principal shareholders of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha had a meeting on the 2nd instant at which the board of directors sought to obtain the approval of the shareholders to certain matters to be laid before a forthcoming special general meeting. Mr. Yamanaka Rinnosuke put a number of questions, and he was followed by others. The points raised were in substance as follows:—

(1.) That the number of tank-steamers in the company's fleet has increased, though the board of directors is aware that there is little profit in importing oil.

(2.) That the company is incapable of paying a dividend of 12 per cent. on the preferential shares, as proposed by the directors, owing to the depression in the marine transport business.

(3.) That the auditors are neglecting their duty in approving the scheme of the board of directors.

After a heated debate, it is reported that the meeting agreed to appoint a committee to investigate the real position of the company.

FIRE ON STEAMER "GLENAVON."

Last week the watchman on board the steamer *Glenavon*, 2,798 tons, Captain Wolfenden, from Liverpool with general cargo, lying at the C. M. Lower Wharf, Hongkong, Shanghai, noticed smoke issuing from one of the forward holds. He at once gave the alarm and the officers and crew mustered, ready for service. The hatches were kept closed and the fire was finally located in the No 2 hold, in which there was a cargo of phosphorus and bran. The crew soon had streams playing on the fire, using the ship's own appliances, of which she has a good equipment. In addition to these several streams were also led on board from wharf. The general alarm was not sounded and it was not found necessary to call in any outside assistance. A good deal of the cargo has been damaged by both fire and water, but the damage to the ship itself is trifling. Most of the cargo will have to be landed in order to ascertain the full extent of the damage. The crew of the ship worked well and deserve credit for the manner in which they got the fire under control.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

We recently published some particulars supplied to us regarding the mysterious disappearance in the Philippine Islands of a Syrian merchant named Michael Basila. The statement is reproduced from our columns into the *Manila Cablenews* and our contemporary appends the following paragraphs:—

A search into the record of this mysterious disappearance shows that in spite of all the efforts of the insular, provincial and municipal authorities in the archipelago, no trace has yet been found of this man.

The search has been taken up by the police, the secret service and by the constabulary, but without result. All that could be found about him was that his partner in business told a secret service man who spent several weeks in the search that he had been told by a fortune-teller that Basila had died in a lonely spot.

There is no foundation for the belief that he has been murdered other than this story of the fortune-teller. None of his property other than that left at his residence in Manila was ever recovered and it is generally believed that if he has been foully dealt with it was at the hands of one of his own countrymen who was later able to dispose of his property in the neighbouring provinces.

Basila left Manila for Santa Cruz, Laguna, and from that day nothing has been heard of him, and it is not known whether he ever reached his destination.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 14th August.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. GOMPERTZ (PUISNE JUDGE).

The hearing of the case in which the Shun Wo firm sued one Chu Ki as garnishee was continued.

Mr. Reader Harris represented the judgment creditors and Mr. Sydenham Dixon appeared for the garnishee.

The cross-examination of the garnishee was concluded and two other witnesses were examined, when Mr. Dixon stated that one witness, Man Chi Lee, who had been subpoenaed had failed to appear. The case was thereupon further adjourned till Saturday next.

Monday, 16th August

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

HONGKONG MILLING COMPANY V. ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.

The seventh day's session was reached yesterday in the action in which the Hongkong Milling Company, of which Mr. H. Percy Smith is liquidator, claimed \$100,000 from Arnhold, Karberg and Co. for damages, for alleged failure to supply an ice-making plant according to stated requirements. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. John Hastings, appeared for plaintiffs, defendants being represented by Mr. MacNeill, from Shanghai, and Mr. G. C. Alabaster, instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon.

Mr. McNeill said he wished to mention a matter which happened on Saturday, and Mr. Haxton being present, perhaps their Lordships would be glad to have his explanation. On Saturday he saw one of the Ice Company's carts, which as far as he could see was on its way delivering ice to consumers, and on the cart he noticed a block of ice with the triangular band which Mr. Haxton told them was always sawn off. Mr. Haxton was present.

The Chief Justice—I see no objection to Mr. Haxton giving his explanation.

Mr. Haxton said the engineer at the works had orders to cut off the band, but occasionally a band got up to the depot. The bands were cut off before the ice was sold.

Mr. McNeill—Was the ice going to a customer?—It was on an open cart.

Mr. Haxton—How many blocks were there?

Mr. McNeill—Six or seven.

Mr. Haxton—They might be going to one of the sub-depots. We have a Chinese sub-depot at West Point.

Mr. McNeill—This cart was going towards East Point. It was the only block which had this band.

The Chief Justice—Probably the engineer forgot to cut it off.

Mr. Haxton—It might be.

The Chief Justice—It seems clear this ice was not going to a depot.

Mr. Haxton then left the box.

The cross-examination of Mr. Arndt was continued by Mr. Slade. He said he had had a good many dealings with Mr. Rennie, whom he regarded as a very keen man of business. Witness was questioned as to statements in Borsig's catalogue as to machinery being supplied which would turn out clear and transparent ice, and asserted that the claim was to produce clear, pure ice.

Witness—I should say the clause as to ice-making machines means "I supply ice-making machines for producing solid blocks of ice." That means opaque ice.

Mr. Slade—It does not say opaque.

Witness—It says "I supply also machinery for supplying clear ice."

Mr. Slade—It does not say so; you are merely drawing the inference.

Witness—Yes the inference may be drawn.

Can you show me any other reference in the catalogue to an opaque core?—There does not appear to be any reference.

You have read the catalogues carefully. As far as you know there is no other reference?—No.

Can you remember in Mr. Borsig's letter to you any reference to an opaque core?—I don't think so.

Where did you learn there was an opaque white core in can ice?—I read up for it.

The Puisse Judge—Did you read scientific works?

Witness—I read catalogues and the encyclopaedia.

Mr. Slade—You read the encyclopaedia?

Mr. Slade—You learned there that there was an opaque white core in can ice.

Witness—Yes.

When did Mr. Rennie first speak to you in 1907 about an ice-making plant?—On October 4th.

When Mr. Rennie spoke to you about an ice-making plant in 1905 you knew very little about it?—Yes.

And you acquired your information in the interval?—Yes.

Witness said that at an interview he told Mr. Rennie there was an opaque core in can ice, and it was a plant to supply can ice which he proposed to offer. He did not think he specially mentioned the needles in can ice. He was not aware of the fact that needles and a core in the ice made it melt sooner.

Mr. Slade read a letter from an engineer in the employ of Arnhold, Karberg and Co. to witness pointing out that ice made on the plate system did not melt so quickly as ice made on other systems. He did not pass that information on to Mr. Rennie. He knew that Borsig's plant could not produce ice as clear as that of the Ice Company.

Then why did you enter into a contract to do it?—I didn't.

Mr. Slade then read the terms of the agreement, and added that the words were perfectly clear. He asked—If your state of knowledge was as you now assert it to be, why did you enter into this contract without any qualification at all?

Witness—In our letters we had stated perfectly clearly what we were prepared to guarantee.

But here is the formal agreement you entered into?—Mr. Rennie told me he would have the letters incorporated into an agreement.

You read the formal agreement?—Yes.

And you noticed the differences?—Yes.

Why didn't you make any modifications in them? The words are perfectly clear?—I looked upon it in this way—the difference did not mean anything different to what had already been told in the letters.

You had had trouble with Mr. Rennie over guarantees before, hadn't you?—Yes.

Then why didn't you as an intelligent man make any modifications? It would have been so easy to insert the words "except with regard to a core." Why didn't you do it?—I could not say why I didn't. It struck me that this wording did not make any difference to what we had put in our letters.

There was an absolute difference. It was going to be as clear as the Ice Company's ice. You noticed the difference?—Yes.

Then why didn't you put in a few simple words that would clear up all difficulties?—I suppose it was rather careless on my part.

I suggest it was not carelessness on your part. It was absolutely straightforward and frank, because your machine could produce ice equal to the Ice Company's ice?—No.

You didn't believe that?—No.

You know Mr. Rennie wished ice as clear as the Ice Company's ice because he was selling to Jardine, Matheson?—No.

You didn't?—I thought he was selling in Hongkong.

Did you imagine he could sell any old snow he could put together and call ice?—No. It depends on the quality.

Did you imagine he had given any guarantee at all as to the quality of the ice he was going to supply?—He did not tell me.

Witness was afterwards questioned as to the agreement with reference to the liability under the guarantee.

You noticed in the guarantee that there was a new liability. The liability was on your firm and not merely on your principals?—Yes.

And the ice was to be as clear as the Hongkong Ice Company's, instead of being merely clear?—Yes.

Didn't you think it worth while, when you were in the same building as Mr. Rennie, to go upstairs to see him?—It did not occur to me.

The Chief Justice—Didn't you think it worth while to go upstairs?—It did not occur to me.

Mr. Slade—The differences were rather material, weren't they?—Yes.

And might give rise to misunderstanding?—Yes; but I have already explained the view which I took.

Did you imagine that your previous agreement merely meant partially clear as can ice always is, and that this new agreement to the ice being as clear as the Hongkong Ice Company's meant perfectly clear? Yet you did not think it worth while to go upstairs to see Mr. Rennie?—It did not occur to me to see him.

I put it to you as a matter of fact that you did see Mr. Rennie, and that he told you unless you could guarantee that much you would not have the contract at all?—No. He didn't.

I put it to you that you thought this plant could turn out ice as expressed and that you were deceived by Borsig?—No.

I must put this question, that you are ready and willing to sign misleading agreements?—No.

Either you are the one or the other?—No.

Witness was then examined as to letters written from the Hongkong branch to the Shanghai branch of Arnhold, Karberg.

Do you allege that the plant had an insufficient trial?—Personally, I allege nothing.

You were in Arnhold, Karberg's at that time and you are speaking now on their behalf. Do Arnhold, Karberg allege that the trial was insufficient?—I don't know.

Mr. McNeill—We pleaded it. I allege it.

Mr. Slade—That is what I want. This is a lawyer-manufactured defence from beginning to end.

Do they complain that the trial was incomplete?—I believe it is mentioned in that letter.

At the time?—Yes.

This is one of the many things you are complaining of about now which you did not think of sufficient importance at the time?—I did not mention it.

Did you at any time ask the Milling Company to have a further trial?—No.

Did you at any time complain to the Milling Company that the trial had been cut short?—I believe it was done.

Re-examined—

That guarantee which you gave to Mr. Rennie was no special guarantee, but was your ordinary form of guarantee which you were in the habit of giving as manufacturers' agents?—Yes.

And in view of what you told my friend, that that guarantee was inserted deliberately for the purpose of avoiding liability, I want your explanation.

Witness—I did not catch the question.

Mr. Slade—It is beyond him.

The Chief Justice—What was the question?

Mr. McNeill (to his Lordship)—Is it really beyond—(laughter).

The Chief Justice—Is it really worth while?

Mr. McNeill—I don't know that it is.

The hearing was adjourned.

Tuesday, 17th August.

Mr. G. S. Cruikshank, mechanical engineer in the employ of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. since 1905, said he saw a good deal of the late Mr. Rennie, who discussed with him in the early part of 1906 the erection of an ice plant at Junk Bay. Witness thought Mr. Rennie had studied the matter very considerably from a commercial point of view, and had quite a lot of catalogues of ice-making plants—English, American and German. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. had sold to Mr. Rennie some machinery and plant before witness arrived in the Colony. Some time in 1906 witness sold for Arnhold, Karberg and Company a small Brunswick ice plant capable of producing 100 tons a day. Witness was frequently at Junk Bay during the erection of the ice plant, and spoke to a difficulty which occurred with regard to the pumping.

Mr. Slade objected to Mr. McNeill introducing the subject of machinery. If they had to go into that the case would last another four or five days.

Witness then produced a sketch of what he saw at Junk Bay and explained the mechanism of the de-aerator which was there and the other machinery.

The next witness was Mr. Eric Wolff, from the office of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co., who spoke to having visited Junk Bay during the erection of the ice plant.

Cross-examined—Did Mr. Borsig send out a description of what he called the distilling plant to your firm?—Yes.

And this is what is supplied to the Milling Company?—Yes.

Included in his distilling plant is this de-aerating apparatus?—Yes.

The evidence of Frank Lee Strong, consulting engineer at Manila, taken *de bene esse*, was read. He had an experience of ice plants and refrigerating machinery, and remarked that the can system was more generally in use in America. He had been shown some blocks of ice which he was informed had been made by the Hongkong Milling Company's plant, and in his opinion that ice had not been made with due care, there being more core than there should have been. In his contracts he named thirty days for the trial. He did not consider a week's trial sufficient for a new plant.

Mr. A. H. Ough, architect, said he had made experiments with the ice of the Ice Company and of the Milling Company, and found that the Ice Company's ice melted three minutes quicker than that from Junk Bay. However, it melted quicker when the core was reached, so that there was scarcely any difference between the two.

The Chief Justice—How do you know it was Junk Bay ice?—I was told so.

Mr. McNeill—Mr. Looker obtained it himself.

Mr. Slade—We will accept it as all right.

This concluded the case for the defence. Mr. McNeill, in summing up, said the fact remained that Mr. Arndt did not know the exact terms between Mr. Rennie and the Ice Company or the terms of the guarantee. It was certain that if Mr. Rennie did not know can ice must have a core he had ample means of knowing, and enough evidence had been produced to justify their Lordships in concluding that Mr. Rennie when he bought the can ice plant did so with his eyes open. What the plaintiff had to prove was that there was a warranty of a particular kind, and that that warranty was broken. He submitted that the warranty was not a warranty with the meaning that the ice to be supplied was to be in every respect identical with the ice of the Ice Company, but only ice of clearness and purity and of a merchantable kind. They said the plant was never taken over in full working order, and therefore the warranty did not attach. They said also that for all the practical purposes for which that warranty could have been intended it was substantially performed.

Mr. Alabaster followed, dealing with various smaller matters. At the outset he referred to the special damage claim, which was for seven-eighths, \$175,000, of the original claim, which was for \$200,000.

The hearing was adjourned.

Wednesday, 18th August.

Mr. Slade summed up for the plaintiffs. He said that Jardine, Matheson and Co. might have been wrong in refusing the Milling Company's ice, and yet the plaintiffs might have been justified in refusing to accept the plant. Proceeding, he asked what was the meaning of "clear" in connection with ice. In the English language the word "clear" had many shades of meaning, and the precise meaning of the word differed with regard to the subject matter to which the adjective was applied. Not to take more remote instances, the word "clear" as applied to a colour or a jewel meant something quite different to "clear" as applied to glass. "Clear" as applied to colour meant not dim, not cloudy, not a muddy colour, or it might be brilliant. Certainly as applied to a jewel it undoubtedly meant brilliant and bright. As applied to glass it undeniably meant transparent. Clear glass that would be seen through without obstruction. It was right for the Court to admit evidence to show what "clear" meant in connection with ice. Did it mean, as his learned friends had intended, bright or sparkling, or did it mean, as they submitted, transparent clear in the same sense as applied to

glass? (Clear meant primarily something which is free from all obstruction, and fortunately the Court had a mass of uncontradicted testimony as to the meaning of the word clear. If the Court was going to pay regard to the weight of evidence and not to fanciful suggestions devoid of foundation, it was bound to hold that "clear" meant transparent—unobscured by opaque portions. On the question of clearness the whole matter resolved itself into a question of fact to be judged by the eye. Was the Milling Company's ice, size for size, as transparent as the Hongkong Company's ice? Were there more obstructions to a clear view through the Milling Company's ice than through a piece of similar size manufactured by the Hongkong Ice Company? Later, Mr. Slade said he was using the word "clear" as a term of art in regard to ice.

The Chief Justice—But you can't take a word of art to mean what it does not.

Mr. Slade—I beg your pardon. A dozen can mean thirteen and 100 can mean 120.

The Chief Justice—What I want to point out is that one class of your ice is clear.

Mr. Slade—It is as clear as some other ice which is produced.

The Chief Justice—Why?

Mr. Slade—It is slightly less clear because of minute hairlike streaks in it which are caused by the passage of air.

Later, Mr. Slade said—What I have endeavoured to point out is that the use of the word in this connection is in contradistinction to opaque. Taking it on the other line, to say clear means the opposite of cloudy is to limit the word in a way which is not justified. On the one hand you have a piece of ice the view through which is obstructed for a portion of its surface, you have another piece of ice the view through which is slightly obstructed by a number of fine opaque lines. The view through the Milling Company's ice was obstructed by a series of coarser lines. It was only a question of the lines which makes the difference between what your Lordship terms cloudiness and what I am terming obstructions to the view through the ice. A series of fine lines will give the effect of cloud. A series of coarser lines would give the appearance of a net. I ask your Lordships to adopt one of two meanings applied to the word clear. To make a mixture of the meaning, clear and its opposite cloudy, is to stretch the meaning of the word and attach two meanings where only one is intended.

Mr. Slade then submitted that their Lordships should hold to the wording of the agreement and not to verbal conversation or correspondence. The catalogue, he contended, should be read as an ordinary man would read it. Nothing was said in that catalogue about the ice having an opaque core. It was stated that the plant would produce clear ice, and on that understanding Mr. Rennie entered into a contract with Jardine, Matheson and Co. Mr. Slade further argued that they were entitled to general damages, including so much probable profits, and to special damages. He contended that law as a rule was sound on the subject of damages.

The Chief Justice—There is very seldom an appeal to common-sense, and perhaps you had better not carry it any further.

Mr. Slade—I am not suggesting your Lordships have not got common-sense. (Laughter.) I am only trying to provide your Lordships with facts upon which you can exercise it.

In conclusion, Mr. Slade said it had been remarked that they did not take the plant and run it to advantage, but why should they? Why should they take the risk of running it when it was not what they asked for?

The Chief Justice—The point was that you might have made large profits.

Mr. Slade—We should run the risk of the competition of the Ice Company, who would promptly drop their price half a cent and break us.

The Chief Justice—The defendants ought not to be saddled with extra costs because the Chartered Bank would not find the money to run the plant.

Mr. Slade—It does not follow that Mr. Rennie would have taken the plant.

After further remarks the hearing was closed, and their Lordships reserved their decision.

Thursday, 19th August.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE TAIKOO DOCKYARD MURDER.

Only one case was set down for trial at the August session, Wong Yuk Sheung being indicted for the murder of a fellow-workman at Taikoo Dockyard on July 9th. Prisoner pleaded not guilty. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dennys, conducted the case for the Crown, Mr. J. W. Orr, instructed by Mr. J. W. Gardiner, appearing for the defence, while Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro, from the office of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, attended in the interests of the relatives of the prisoner.

The jury was empanelled as follows:—Messrs. C. W. Longuet (foreman), F. G. Carroll, A. E. McCallum, Ezra Abraham, C. H. Lyson, H. Pemberton, and G. A. Diss.

The Attorney-General stated that the deceased and the prisoner were fellow-workmen and they were engaged on the ship *Hangchow*, then in dock for repairs. The deceased and one of the witnesses were working inside the cabin rivetting and the prisoner and another man who had disappeared were employed outside. The deceased received a blow on his head which fractured his skull and caused his death some few hours later. There was no dispute between the Crown and the prisoner as to the fact that the deceased received a blow which caused his death. There was no dispute between the Crown and the prisoner that it was with that hammer that the blow was struck. Nor was there any dispute that it was the prisoner who caused the blow, but the issue between the Crown and the prisoner was as to the manner in which the blow was struck and received. The prisoner in his defence before the Magistrate declared that while he was working outside the hammer fell from his hands through the porthole and alighted on the head of the man working inside and injuring him—in other words, that it was a pure accident. The Crown, however, asserted that the prisoner struck the man deliberately and that the prisoner left the side of the ship and was seen in the cabin with the deceased at the time he struck the deceased on the head. If the jury believed the witnesses for the Crown, they would find that the prisoner struck the deceased in the cabin with the hammer. If they accepted the statement of the prisoner that it was an accident, the man would not be liable to any consequences. But before they accepted the statement of the prisoner they would have to reject the positive testimony of two witnesses which the Crown would call, and in considering the evidence in support of the prisoner's statement he would have to draw their attention to a part of prisoner's evidence given before the Magistrate to the effect that at the time of what he called the accident the man working with deceased outside had for some reason gone away. The practice was that if one rivetter went away work ceased, and if the jury came to the conclusion that what was usual took place—that work was stopped—then the fact that one rivetter was away would destroy the theory of the prisoner that the hammer slipped through the porthole while he was working and struck the deceased.

Mr. Piercy submitted a plan of the scene of the occurrence.

Dr. Moore, assistant superintendent at the Government Civil Hospital, said the deceased was admitted to hospital with a fractured skull, the bone of which was driven in. An operation to relieve the pressure and to arrest the hemorrhage was performed, but the deceased died shortly afterwards. He considered that it would require a fair blow with the hammer shown to have caused the injury he saw.

Cross-examined—He was not prepared to swear that the injury could not have been caused by the hammer falling from a height of four feet on the deceased man's head. He did not think the injury had been caused by a glancing blow.

The foreman rivetter deposed to seeing the prisoner strike the deceased on the head with a hammer as the latter was stooping. Witness was then on the deck about 23 feet off. When

witness entered the room the prisoner left and the small boy applied tobacco to the wound. He was certain the blow was struck with the side of the hammer and not with the face, as Dr. Moore stated.

Cross-examined—Prisoner and the deceased lived together, and he knew of no reason why the prisoner should wish to injure the deceased.

The boy who brought the hot rivets said the prisoner was at the side of the deceased and not behind him when he struck three blows with the hammer and not one. He also stated that the deceased was standing upright at the time he was struck and not crouching.

Mr. Orr said he would not call witnesses. A more unreasonable and unjustifiable charge never was brought before anyone, and if the jury were going to hang a man upon such evidence as that produced he was very sorry. Every witness had told a different story and Counsel would not insult the intelligence of the jury by addressing them upon the charge.

Sir Henry Berkeley having addressed the jury,

The Chief Justice told the jury that it was the prisoner's duty to explain how the murder happened. If the jury accepted the Crown facts it was prisoner's duty to explain as far as he could the malice.

The Foreman—Have we no alternative but murder?

His Lordship—No.

The jury returned after an absence of twelve minutes.

The Registrar—Are you unanimous?

The Foreman—No.

The Attorney-General—They must be unanimous in a capital charge.

His Lordship—They must be unanimous.

The Attorney-General—They must retire again.

His Lordship—You cannot push this. Really there is no shadow of a case.

The Attorney-General—I feel very strongly the other way. The matter is out of my hands.

His Lordship—You have done your best.

The Attorney-General—The jury must either return a verdict or be discharged. Your Lordship was asked by the foreman whether there was no alternative to a verdict of murder which carries death. As a matter of fact the jury can always return a verdict of manslaughter.

His Lordship—Yes, but not on these facts.

Sir Henry Berkeley—The facts are for the jury—not for the Court. It is within their competency to return a verdict of manslaughter if they think it consistent.

His Lordship—I think it would be inconsistent with their duty if they did so on these facts.

The Foreman—If we can bring in a verdict of manslaughter we can consider it again. We will be unanimous.

His Lordship—If you brought a verdict of manslaughter I should ask you to return to your room and reconsider it.

The Attorney-General—On the facts there is no reason why we should not have a verdict of manslaughter.

His Lordship—It is impossible on your facts.

The Attorney-General—One man is seen to strike the other. It is competent for the jury to return a verdict of manslaughter if they wish.

His Lordship—I agree—on these facts: where the evidence for the Crown is consistent, but where the stories told by two witnesses are inconsistent it is impossible that I should accept such a verdict. I cannot exercise any force over the jury. Gentlemen, I must ask you to go back to your room.

The Foreman—It is no use retiring.

His Lordship—I think the jury had better go back again.

The jury again retired. On their return, they were asked:

Are you unanimous?

The Foreman—No.

The Attorney-General—I would suggest you discharge the jury, my Lord.

His Lordship—(to the jury)—You can go.

The Attorney-General—You can discharge the panel. I do not propose to proceed any further. I do not propose to present a further indictment. The prisoner can be discharged.

The prisoner was then discharged.

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

TOKYO, August 3rd.

THE GREAT FIRE AT OSAKA.

In one of the busiest, poorest, and most crowded parts of Osaka, where houses are crushed together and the streets so narrow that one could stride across them, where scores of small factories, carrying on a trade unhampered by factory regulations, make cheap goods for the China market, is a "stockinet" factory, where oil is used for lighting purposes because of its cheapness. In the kitchen of this establishment at daybreak on Saturday morning the sleepy maidservant upset the lamp and it fell to the floor where stood the oil-can from which the lamp had been replenished. In a moment the kitchen was filled with flames. The master of the factory had no time to do anything but save his mother, wife and son, for in an incredibly short space of time the flames, caught by a fresh wind, spread from house to house in that crowded district, spreading panic among people; nor did the conflagration stop until a waste three miles in length and half-a-mile broad had been created in the city of Osaka.

PROGRESS OF THE FIRE.

Hovel and warehouse, fine public buildings and matsheds, all were destroyed in the course of 26 hours, when the fire had burned itself out. At the height of the destruction the wind was blowing a hurricane. The hydrants gave out at the outset, for after a long drought there was not sufficient water supply, and it appears that no means were taken to make use of the numerous rivers and canals that run through Osaka. The firemen were reinforced by the troops of the Osaka Division. Blocks of buildings were pulled down in the hope of checking the fire, but the high wind carried the burning sparks over the gaps and the outbreak started afresh. Unable to check the progress of the fire all efforts were turned to the management of the panic-stricken population and the saving of furniture. The existence of the entire city depended upon the will of the wind, burning embers being carried high over the house-tops. It was at one time feared that the famous Tennoji shrine would be destroyed, although beyond the fire limits, but the temple was saved by extraordinary exertions. It was covered entirely with matting, on which was thrown a constant supply of water, and in this way the ancient structure was saved from fugitive sparks. At about six o'clock on Sunday morning, 26 hours after the outbreak, the fire had burned itself out, the wind having fallen in the meantime, and the attention of the authorities could be turned to the housing and feeding of the homeless, of whom there were scores of thousands.

LIABILITY OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The majority of those whose homes and places of business were destroyed were not insured against fire, but the losses of the insurance companies are nevertheless heavy, and policyholders will be fortunate if they can get satist faction. Within the burned zone are no less than twenty-eight *cho* (wards) and *machi*, (districts), each *cho* and *machi* containing within itself scores of small streets. The principal buildings destroyed are the Appeal Courts, a fine foreign pile, whose comparatively isolated situation attests the fury of the fire; Kwaisei Hospital, Dojima Exchange, Meteorological Observatory, Higher Commercial School, Commercial Museum, Prefectural Laboratory, City Post Office, Local Courts, residences of Governor and high officials and a host of banks, offices and other business premises. The chief buildings mentioned here were all in foreign style, large and well-equipped and all, presumably, insured. It is impossible just yet to gauge the loss of the insurance companies, but those most heavily interested are the Nippon, Tokyo, Meiji, Kyodo, and Yokohama companies. For a fire of such extent it seems a conservative estimate to place the insurance losses at 10,000,000 yen, and the following are the chief features of the accounts of the companies at the end of last year:—

	Subscribed capital.	Paid-up.	Reserves.	Div.
Kyodo	5,000,000	1,250,000	297,447	None
Meiji	1,000,000	750,000	1,196,228	20%

Nippon	3,000,000	2,250,000	600,000	None
Tokyo	10,000,000	2,500,000	480,605	None
Yokohama	5,000,000	1,250,000	650,000	12%

In addition, there will be the losses of the foreign companies, for the Japanese concerns have to contend against keen competition from the leading English corporations. As an example of this, the enterprising Okura Company of Tokyo, who are agents for the Norwich Union and other English concerns, advertise that they are prepared to take risks at a rate lower than that of the Japanese companies, and it is therefore conceivable that foreign concerns also are interested in the Osaka fire. With their enormous vested funds the English companies are in a position here to carry on a very effective campaign, and future success will depend in a large measure upon the showing the Japanese companies make in the present crisis, for their losses are not as small as the above table clearly indicates.

THE CHINA QUESTIONS.

Attention is so concentrated on the Osaka disaster that little is reported in the papers about a conference which took place on Sunday morning at Prince Ito's official residence in Tokyo. There were present the Prince, the Premier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Minister for War. At the same time the report comes from Dalny that 10,000 Chinese troops have been dispatched from Mukden to Chientao. There is no doubt that a crisis is arriving in Japan's relations with China, but the official attitude here is one of confidence, despite the most alarming reports from Manchuria. [The announcement of Japan's intention to proceed with the reconstruction of the Antung-Mukden railway forthwith was doubtless the result of this Conference. —ED.]

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENTERPRISE.

An influential meeting was held in Tokyo on the 8th ult., when it was decided to proceed with the work of flotation of the Anglo-Japanese Hydro-Electric Syndicate. The idea was first mooted about two years ago, but owing to the condition of the money market it was decided to postpone organisation until a more favourable opportunity. This opportunity has now arrived, and the English capitalists having expressed their readiness to begin work, the Tokyo promoters telegraphed desiring them to send engineers. One of the great objects of this company is the supply of the Tokyo Electric Railway Co. with power. Half the capital will be English.

CRUELTY TO SOLDIERS.

The Japanese, who have been styled the Frenchmen, and who have called themselves the Englishmen, of the East, certainly follow the German ideal in their military life, and the great fetish of the army is the god of discipline, the personification of certain regulations laid down for the training of soldiers, and the inculcation of the *bushi* spirit. How far blind, unreasoning obedience to regulations can do harm to the rank and file has been demonstrated during the past month in different parts of the country where the troops have been exposed for long periods to the heat of the sun under conditions which appear brutal in the extreme. On the 16th and 17th ult. the 8th Infantry of the Osaka Division carried out a forced march of nearly 30 miles fully equipped, each man (or boy, for some are little better than boys) carrying 80 lbs. with the temperature at blood heat.

Prior to the march the colonel in command informed his captains that the honours of victory would go to the company which arrived first at its destination in good marching order without any stragglers. This had the effect of rousing the competitive spirit. The march was begun and in the course of a few hours, during which time the soldiers in the rear particularly were stifled with heat and dust, the exertion told upon the strongest. Scores of the weaker men fell out by the wayside and were hurried back to hospital, a few to die, others to become raving lunatics. It appears they were not allowed drinking water en route, for fear of typhoid, but the native tea was permissible, and this was served out in quantities that wouldn't quench the thirst of a mouse. Long after sundown the troops were marching, and the first to arrive at its destination was the 11th company, which covered 124 ri in 11 hrs. 5 min. The last company in took

14 hrs. 35 min. A day or two later manoeuvres of another division took place on a plain near Tokyo, when four men were killed by heat and sixty were placed on the sick list. In this low-lying and unprotected region the temperature was 130 degrees. Other "accidents" of a similar nature have occurred, and the question which arises is whether the authorities have the slightest justification in time of peace in compelling the rank and file to undergo such painful ordeals.

CONDITIONS OF THE MARCH.

To do 30 miles in midsummer is not a difficult task by any means, provided the walker is well equipped for the work, but this cannot be said of the Japanese soldier. It seems strange at first thought that there should be any room for criticism after experienced authorities had deliberated upon and decided that such a uniform was the best for midsummer wear. One would think that the first object of the military authorities would be the health of the men and their comfort, but both were utterly disregarded in the Osaka march and in the manoeuvres. The men may have been submitted to such a trial with the object of hardening them, which indeed is the excuse that has since been put forward by the War Department, but such a process of "hardening" appears to bear very close resemblance to the bitter experiences of many of the youthful characters in the pages of Dickens, the victims of brutal masters, whose brutality was often of a refined sort and administered with much unctuous moralising. Such processes do not harden but break the spirit and ruin the body. It is possible that a very small percentage of the Osaka Regiment was not harmed in a material degree by the march, but the great majority, even if they did not fall out on the way, could not be improved by such an experience.

Clothing and footgear are of the very first importance in a long march. The regulation boots in Japan are the ugliest and most ill-fitting things imaginable. They are heavy and a torture for summer wear. I have often been struck in Tokyo by the slipshod appearance of the soldiers, whose low-fitting boots cut just above the ankle slip up and down as the wearer walks, often displaying a heelless sock. The man who is compelled to walk in such things in this weather is to be sympathised with. Far better the native *waraji*, light sandals made of straw, which can be easily thrown away when worn out and replaced by new ones. The summer uniform is now of khaki, it used to be white, and this is generally very loose-fitting and of no particular style. The question whether the khaki material contributed to the exhaustion of the men is now under discussion, and it is possible that the authorities will revert next year to the former colour. A tight belt, of course, does not fit a man for a long walk. In addition to bayonet and rifle the troops carried 80 lbs. on the back, and as these roughly-shod and heavily-accounted men marched through the choking dust, lying deep on the burning roadway, many fell in their tracks and were worse off than they would have been on the actual battlefield, for no Red Cross was near and they had to be "returned" to Osaka, there to be medically treated.

DISCIPLINE AND MOTIVE.

The whole subject of these endurance trials raises a very interesting question. The contention that the soldier should be inured in time of peace to the hardships he will experience in time of war—does this justify the reckless abuse of the men as exemplified in the recent marches and manoeuvres? History furnishes examples of great feats in war by unskilled men fired by a patriotic motive. Japanese troops fired by similar motives are good for anything, but at Osaka there was no call on the patriotism, the bravery, or the endurance of the men beyond the orders of mere regulations. No great object was to be achieved, such as to rouse the best qualities in each man's breast, and unsupported by this moral stimulus the men were so much less able to endure. They knew there was no reason in such great exertion, and hence, probably, the collapse of many who might have withstood the ordeal in a time of actual war, when everything depended upon them.

Colonel George R. Colton, who succeeded Mr. Shuster as Collector of Customs in the Philippines, has tendered his resignation.

COMPANY PROMOTION IN HONGKONG.

The following letter is reproduced from the *Financial Times*:-

Sir,—As you are aware, the Hongkong Company Ordinances were framed to afford facilities for the registration and working of companies wishing to trade under the limited liability laws. As a general rule these ordinances follow the English Company Acts, but owing to lack of supervision on the part of the Hongkong Government various abuses have crept in, and unscrupulous persons have not been slow to take advantage of the loose administration of the ordinances, especially when these companies operate outside actual British territory. Companies registered in Hongkong, but working in China, can be brought under the jurisdiction of the British Supreme Court at Shanghai, but the Court has no jurisdiction whatever over persons of other nationalities who may commit all sorts of offences against the Hongkong Ordinances without being brought to book. Of course these persons can be charged in their own Consular Courts, but when they claim protection of some small South American State in nine cases out of ten they escape punishment. There are numbers of companies trading here which are registered in Hongkong, but all the directors, managers and capital are of foreign origin, and in case of default persons making contracts with such concerns have no redress.

No doubt the question is a difficult one, and one can understand the reluctance of the Hongkong Government to take action, but what is to be said of the authorities who openly permit the Company Acts being broken? We have here a Crown Advocate, who, in a sense, occupies the place of the public prosecutor at home. The English Company laws do not permit of a company inviting public subscriptions until it has registered at Somerset House its memorandum and articles of association and filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies a copy of the prospectus. Practically the same regulations are in force in Hongkong, but in a prospectus published here to-day public subscriptions were being invited for a company before it had been registered. The promoters are prominent British subjects and no action whatever is being taken. Is it to be wondered at that foreigners defy the Hongkong Ordinances when British subjects of standing do so? In this case the company will be registered only if the flotation is successful.

In addressing this letter to you I do so in the hope that the publicity accorded to it in your widely-read paper will induce the authorities to put a stop to a state of affairs which is fast degenerating into a scandal.—I am, etc.,

A BRITISH MANUFACTURER.

Shanghai, June 19.

The *N.-C. Daily News*, commenting on the letter, says:—The difficulties of this subject are, perhaps, better illustrated by the letter than its writer may have quite realized. In the first place he calls attention quite correctly but in a very extravagant manner to the difficulty of bringing non-British directors of companies registered under the Hongkong Ordinances who do not reside in Hongkong to book for offences against the Ordinances. But when he passes on to say that "practically the same regulations (as in England) are in force in Hongkong," he entirely misrepresents the actual state of affairs. The English Companies Act of 1862 was considerably modified by the Companies Act of 1900, which was passed for the purpose of preventing the issue of fraudulent prospectuses, and contains stringent provisions as to the steps to be taken by Companies proposing to invite public subscription. These provisions have never been incorporated in the Hongkong Company Ordinances, which are based on the English Company Act of 1862, and the result is that Company law under the Hongkong Ordinance is less strict than under the English Acts. The specific instance to which the writer alludes as a violation of the Hongkong Ordinance is not a violation of the Hongkong Ordinance, nor would it be a violation of the English Company Acts. There is nothing illegal in issuing a prospectus before

the incorporation of the intended Company either under English or Hongkong law, and the only difference between the two is that in England every prospectus issued on behalf of an incorporated or intended Company must be signed by the directors or proposed directors and filed for registration before being issued; in Hongkong it does not require to be registered either before or after issue. The object of insisting on the registration of a prospectus is to enable the prospectus to be on record if proceedings should subsequently be taken against directors for misrepresentations, but there is no magic in registration itself. A company, therefore, does not require to be incorporated before the prospectus is issued, although as a matter of practice it is usual and preferable that the Company should be incorporated before application is made for public subscription. The question of the administration of Companies in China is beset with difficulties which are not likely to be solved by letters such as the one quoted. It is, of course, more than open to doubt whether the Ordinances should not be made stricter. In one respect their laxity has been officially recognized. Numerous cases have arisen in which a company registered as British does not possess a single British director; and for such concerns the British Government has refused to allow consular protection to be exercised.

"OUR PHILIPPINES EXPERIMENT."

AMERICA'S MISSION AND ITS FRUITS.

The following is taken from the *San Francisco Chronicle*:-

Last year there were imported into the Philippines goods to the value of about \$29,000,000, of which we supplied, in addition to what was imported for our Army and other Americans, to the amount of about \$5,000,000. Assuming that in what we sold there was a profit of 20 per cent., our gross income from the Philippines experiment last year was \$1,000,000. Our gross outgo is difficult to compute. It would be made up of about one-third the pay of our Army, one-third the expenses of our Navy, the entire cost of the transport service and the entire difference between the cost of maintaining troops in Philippines and here, and whatever we may expend for lighthouses, harbours and fortifications in those islands—certainly \$100,000,000. The question is whether it pays in money, which it evidently does not and is not likely to, and whether, regardless of profit, we are engaged in a holy mission which we are bound to pursue in the name of civilization and humanity.

If we are prosecuting a "mission," it is pertinent to inquire who sent us. If it be said that it is "the Lord," the demand for evidence cannot be supplied. If it be said that it is, the inner consciousness of the American people, the answer is that the American people are greatly divided on the subject. The two-thirds vote in the Senate which ratified the treaty which gave us the Philippines—by one or two votes obtained by Colonel William J. Bryan—probably indicated very closely the division of sentiment at that time. At the present time, after ten years of trial, it is improbable that as a new proposition the annexation of the Philippines would come near getting even a majority vote in Congress or before the people.

As for the Filipinos themselves, they have never liked us, and like us now not so well as before acquaintance. The million and odd of them who have any education nearly all desire independence—presumably that they may exploit with more satisfaction and profit the eight or nine millions of their countrymen who have no education and who some hold to be eternally and irrevocably predestined to exploitation by somebody. As for those uneducated millions, they do not seem to care except that they hate Americans because Americans despise them. As to what we are doing there, we are doubtless teaching the Filipinos to desire things which cost money which they must work harder than before to get. Thus far there is no evidence that we have increased their happiness and contentment thereby. Upon the whole are the Philippines worth while? Are Americans worth while to the Filipinos? Just what is "humanity"—whatever that is—gaining by our occupation?

THE ANTUNG-MUKDEN RAILWAY.

CHINA'S STATEMENT TO THE POWERS.

The Shanghai *National Review* publishes the following official statement sent by China to Chinese representatives abroad for submission to the various Powers in regard to the Japanese Note respecting the Antung-Mukden Railway:—

In the eleventh moon of the 31st year of Kuang-Hsu (November 1905) the Chinese and Japanese plenipotentiaries agreed upon the conversion of the Antung-Mukden Railway from a military into a commercial line and they also agreed that the line should be built and repaired by the Japanese Government. It was stipulated in the Treaty that the right to redeem the railway at the end of fifteen years should remain with the Chinese Government, and it was also agreed that the work of reconstruction should be commenced within a period of two years. The construction and improvement of the line were to be carried as a joint Chinese and Japanese enterprise; each Government appointing commissioners for the purpose, and hence China has every right to send her representatives to take part in the control and inspection of the operations. At the expiry of the time stipulated in the agreement, however, the Japanese Government gave no indication of any intention to resume negotiations in the matter, nor did the Japanese Government do so until the spring of this year. With a view to cementing the friendly relations between Japan and China the Chinese Government yielded to a request for a resumption of negotiations, and the Yuchuanpu accordingly sent officers to survey the line in company with officers appointed for that purpose by the Japanese Government. Subsequently the Viceroy of the Three Eastern Provinces (Manchuria), communicated with the Japanese Consul at Mukden, insisting upon holding to the original arrangements for the building of the line, but the Consul further delayed matters by refusing China's request that Japan should not place military guards either on or adjacent to the line, but should leave the policing of the railway zone to China, through whose territory the line runs. This is the reason of the long delay. Negotiations were still proceeding when, quite unexpectedly on the 21st of this moon (Friday, the 6th August), the Japanese Minister sent a communication to the Waiwupu charging China with procrastination and declaring that Japan would forthwith commence the work without Chinese co-operation.

On receipt of this communication the Waiwupu forwarded to the Japanese Minister in Peking a reply the gist of which was that as the improvements were being made in the interests of trade and commerce no necessity existed for the extension of the railway zone, but China would not raise any objection if Japan wished to change the gauge and effect other improvements of an engineering character. The reply further emphasizes that in the event of the gauge being changed it must be made the same as that of the Peking-Mukden line, and that no other changes must be made than those entailed by the necessities of engineering. This stipulation has particular reference to the suggested possibilities of a general change of route. The reply also stated that no extension of military control or patrolling of railways in Manchuria would be permitted and that the Chinese Government would furnish police for guarding the line. It concluded by repudiating any responsibility for past delay.

We would point out to Your Excellencies that the Japanese Government resumed negotiations subsequent to the expiry of the time stipulated in the Treaty for the commencement of the work, but although this was the case, we, with a view to arriving at an amicable statement of the differences existing between Japan and ourselves, did not refuse the request. Now, however, Japan, relying upon her superior strength, suddenly takes action regardless of the terms of the Treaty and seeks to lay the blame for the delay upon China.

We are sure that under the pretext of development of communications and commerce the Japanese Government desires to build this railway almost entirely for military purposes.

It will also be remembered that the Japanese, in spite of treaty obligations, have made many

other encroachments upon the rights and liberties of China.

In view of the situation set up by the matters treated of in the foregoing, and particularly regarding the extension of Japanese military control in Manchuria, we have been compelled to lay particular emphasis on the question of military protection of the railway and the constitution of the police force. If Japan had conceded these points this matter would have been settled long ago, and she would have been under no necessity to attempt to lay the blame for any delay at the door of China.

China still hopes for an amicable settlement within the terms of the Treaty, and in making this announcement to the Powers desires simply to set forth the facts in their true light, leaving the world to judge to whom the blame attaches.

THE STRAITS DOLLAR.

There were some people, says the Singapore *Free Press*, who fondly imagined, when the Straits Government ordered that "Sixty dollars shall be equal to £7," that most, if not all, of our currency troubles were over. There was to be no more worry about the rate of exchange; there would be little or no chopping and changing in the prices of European goods; people with fixed wages would know exactly how much they had to save to ensure a sterling passage Home. And, for the Government, they would know exactly how much they were due to the Crown Agents for pensions, allowances, goods, bought and interest on loans. Well, many of these objects have been achieved. It was unfortunate that the rate of exchange was fixed so far above current rates just before the purchase of Tanjong Pagar, because that made the sum to be paid so much higher, and also lays the permanent burden on the Colony of paying capital and interest at 2/4. It is doubly unfortunate that while we have increased the value of our dollar fifteen per cent, very few of the necessities of life have been correspondingly reduced; while the domestic servant (to take a homely example) was formerly content with twelve 2/- dollars a month he still wants twelve (or more) 2/4 dollars. Truly unfortunate it is that for all our produce, we are getting fifteen per cent. less in money, on the average, than we formerly got. We do not, of course, overlook the fact that a fixed rate of exchange has largely stimulated the flow of capital into the Straits, notably in the supply of wants of the rubber industry. Nor that slight decreases have been made in the wages of coolies on tin mines and rubber estates, though this is probably more due to bad trade and combination among employers than to any currency change. The fact remains, that the 2/4 dollar has given us no advantage in the ordinary course of life, a fact recognised by the Government, who have continued for another three years the additional ten per cent. allowance to civil servants. Also that we are placed in a disadvantageous position as regards silver countries. Scoffers point out that our Tanjong Pagar cannot touch the prices of work tendered for in competition with Hongkong and Shanghai. They perhaps forget that in the price of labour these ports have a twenty per cent. advantage. Fixity of exchange has no doubt its advantages, but if it is kept up by artificial means, there are grave disadvantages. There is possibly more in this with regard to our dullness of trade than is apparent. At all events, in India there is a good deal still to be said about interfering with the people's currency, and a long letter from Mr. Moreton Frewen appears in the *Times of India*, which gives food for thought. In Canada and the United States, he says, the silver question is going through a new phase, and he appeals for a Royal Commission to see whether the steps already taken in India should not be retraced: we take it he refers to the artificial restriction of currency by the closing of the mints. In his letter, which is too long to quote, he holds that the closing of the mints has converted every season of scarcity into a period of acute famine. "That the mints may remain closed the people must die." He quotes Sir David Barbour that in times of scarcity the people withdrew from their "bangle surplus" and sold it to the mint, either directly or indirectly. When the rupee and the silver bangle were convertible, the two thousand tolas of the peasants were convertible into two thousand

rupees. With the mint closed, the value is reduced to less than one-half. A famine can be pulled through at something like one anna per capita per day. "So that when the head man went to Allahabad and lost eight annas per each of his two thousand tolas, he lost just a week of life for each of his 2,500 villagers." The debased rupee is a serious item in the immemorial debts of India. There is a vast inconvertible token coinage, whose variations, the people know not why, cause a universal discontent. The awakening of China and her adherence to silver will either end in all manufactures going to her, or a corresponding grinding down of the Indian labourer to meet the cheaper labour of China. Since this Colony is tacked on to India's system of a token silver coinage artificially kept in a certain relation with gold, the arguments adduced by Mr. Frewen apply to this Colony. He does not of course suggest any further hasty juggling with Indian currency, but he does make out a case against the artificial maintenance of the relations between the rupee and gold—"the selling of a tenpence worth of silver to your people for sixteen pence, by a gold standard which is nothing but a gold brick."

THE NEPALESE EMBASSY.

RETURN OF THE AMBASSADOR TO LHASSA.
A correspondent at Batang, Yachow Prefecture, Szechuan, writing to the *Shanghai Times* says:—

After a prolonged stay in Batang the Nepalese embassy left Batang to-day for Lhasa. This is their last stop in China proper, as they enter the Dalai Lama's territory after a short journey from here.

The caravan consisted of 150 horses for riding and 650 animals for loads. These latter consisted of yak, oxen, mules, donkeys, and horses.

There are 50 Nepalese and about 150 Tibetans besides the Chinese escort, of which there is a large one.

The Da Kaji (or "Great Official," member of Administrative Council in Nepal) expects to reach Lhasa in 52 travelling days from here. It will then take him 33 days to reach Nepal. He is trying to make a quick journey. If he gets across the mountains before cold weather he will have made the round trip in three and one-half years. If not he will be four years on the road.

His Excellency, the Da Kaji, Bhyrub Bahadur, was not in very good health when leaving here. The long, arduous journey has left its mark on him and it is doubtful if he will ever entirely recover from the hardships of the journey. He has aged considerably since he came through on his way to Peking.

The Da Kaji talked very interestingly of his journey through China and Tibet. He says the attitude toward foreigners in Lhasa is much more friendly than is generally supposed to be. He reports the lamas as saying that when the English entered Lhasa they destroyed no lamasteries and murdered no women and children, while they have all suffered greatly at the hands of the Chinese.

The Da Kaji himself seems to be a very kind-hearted, thoughtful gentleman, and expressed himself as very anxious that he should be no burden upon the Tibetans any more than he could possibly help. When large caravans like this pass through the whole country is levied upon for animals for the Ula.

Since the Da Kaji's visit to China he seems quite favourably impressed with missionary work and is quite friendly with foreigners. He says the most valued thing he obtained in China was the friendship of foreigners. He remarked that "the only things which endure are God and friends."

The expedition has been very fortunate this time in that during the entire journey only one of the Nepalese has died. In the previous embassy, some 12 or 13 years ago, over half of the Nepalese died during the journey. They had a much larger caravan and were seven years making the round trip.

The journey from Nepal to Peking could be made via the Indian and Pacific Oceans in about one month, and though the Da Kaji asked permission to return to Nepal that way it was refused him. It is feared the Da Kaji will not reach Nepal alive.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN JAPAN.

Tokyo, August 16th.

The official report confirms the extent and violence of the earthquake shocks in Japan, but being confined to the country districts and owing to the absence of fires there was comparatively little loss.

JAPANESE BUSINESS MEN VISITING AMERICA.

Tokyo, August 19th.

A party of forty Japanese business men, headed by Baron Shibusawa, left on the "Minnesota" on a visit to America, at the invitation of American Chambers of Commerce.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE ANTUNG-MUKDEN RAILWAY.

Peking, August 17th.

The Viceroy of Manchuria has reported to the Throne that the Antung-Mukden railway question is difficult to solve. He states that several Japanese men-of-war have recently been visiting various ports in Manchuria, and using unnecessary force in the maintenance of their claim.

The Throne proposes to send Grand Secretary Na Tung and Tang Shao Yi to Manchuria to make arrangements with Japan.

WINE GROWING AT CHEFOO.

In the Chefoo Trade Report, Mr. F. S. Unwin, Commissioner of Customs, gives the following interesting account of a notable local enterprise:—

Space may be found here for a brief account of the wine-growing enterprise started in Chefoo in the year 1891 and prosecuted in the face of many difficulties with extraordinary patience and perseverance, at a vast outlay of capital, by the Chang Yu Pioneer Wine Company. The Company, a private one, owned mainly by the well known Kwangtung capitalist Mr. Chang Chen-hsun and under the local direction of his nephew, Mr. Chang Ying-tung, commenced operations in 1895 under a Government charter, issued at the instance of the Grand Secretaries Li Hung-chang and Wang Wen-shao, primarily with the intention of making wine from the excellent native grape grown in large quantities in the Laichow district, as well as elsewhere in the Chihli, Shantung, and Fengtien provinces. It was very soon found, however, that the supply was not only irregular, insufficient, and costly, but that the grape itself was deficient in sugar and produced a wine of poor and thin quality. Some vines were then imported from America and planted in the company's own vineyard near Chefoo. In 1896 under Baron von Babo, the Austrian expert who manages the business, large quantities of different varieties of vines, guaranteed free—but not immune—from disease by the Austrian Government nurseries, were imported and planted. These flourished at first but after some time became infected with phylloxera, the source of which was found to be the first vines imported from America. The company had then to face the prospect of the complete ruin of its enterprise or the costly alternative of gradually replacing every plant by graftings on imported plants of the disease-resisting varieties. The first batch of these was imported from Austria and planted in 1902, since when the process of substitution has gone on steadily, with the result that the bulk of the plants covering the 700 mou (roughly, 120 acres) now under cultivation are immune to the pest. During all these years the vintage has been accumulating and maturing in huge casks in the cellars of the company—the actual stock, consisting of over 20 varieties of red and white still wines, being about 2,000 hectolitres red and 1,000 white. The wines are pronounced by all who have tasted them, including not a few connoisseurs, to be excellent, and much pressure has been brought on the company from various quarters to induce it to sell. Before this is possible, however, the question of casks and bottles, which

presents considerable difficulties, has to be solved. So far no wood suitable for casks has been obtainable in eastern markets. There is a glass factory at Poshan, on the railway line between Tsinanfu and Wei-hsien, which turns out a very superior description of glass, but up to the present has not been willing or able to undertake the supply of wine bottles. The Chang Yu Wine Company now possesses 1,000 mou of land on the Chefoo hills but experiences many obstacles in adding to it. Though practically worthless for farming, owners of adjacent land ask prohibitive prices. The results of many years experience show that the climate—though occasionally injuriously damp during July and August—and the soil of the district are on the whole suitable to wine growing, and that a vast amount of hill land, otherwise unprofitable, could be made productive if obtainable at a reasonable price. The enterprising pioneers of this new industry are entitled to all the encouragement and support the Government can give it.

NEW CHINESE STAMP FOR COLLECTORS.

The Imperial Administration has decided to commemorate the accession to the throne of the new Emperor Hsuan Tung by the issue of three new stamps, which will be oblong, be printed in two colours, and have a yellow border (yellow being the imperial colour), and will have as a central picture the Temple of Heaven.

The values of these stamps will be two cents, three cents, and seven cents, the colours green, blue, and purple, according to the value, and the issue will be limited.

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS

RICE.

HONGKONG, 20th August:—The prices are further advancing, holders being firm. Saigon, Ordinary \$5.00 to \$5.05
" Round, Good quality 5.00 to 5.05
" Long 5.05 to 5.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 5.00 to 5.05
" Garden, " No. 1 5.10 to 5.15
" White, 5.20 to 5.25
" Fine Cargo 5.30 to 5.35

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, Aug. 19th.—We beg to continue our advice of the 5th inst., since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

	Malwa.	Patna.	Benares.	Persian
Stocks on the 5th Aug., 1909—	2,123	1,357	866	442
August 6th Imports per A. Appear—	2,123	2,757	1,424	545
" 13th " " Borneo—	—	240	165	—
" 14th " " Lightning—	—	—	49	—
" 17th " " Australian—	—	200	44	—
" 18th " " Decauville—	—	150	120	—
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	141	70	80	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	115	491	188	106
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,867	2,196	996	439

Bengal.—There has been a further advance to \$1,027½ for Patna and \$1,140 for Benares, due to the satisfactory consumption and to the rise in native drug reported from the north.

Malwa.—The market has ruled steady at previous prices for new and a rise of \$10/20 for old drug.

Persian.—We quote superior long cakes at \$1,070.

HONGKONG, August 18th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,140/1,160	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,170/1,200	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,210/1,250	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,260/1,300	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,080/1,110	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$950/1,000	do.
Patna New	\$1,030	per chest.
Patna Old	\$—	do.
Benares New	\$1,045	do.
Benares Old	\$1,030	do.

JAPANESE MARKET.

Yokohama, July 30th, 1909.—Cotton-Piece Goods.—The market is firm, and actual transactions are light, as is at this time of the year. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—Some business for Spring arrival has been done and the trade generally has assumed a better tone. Raw Cotton.—Owing to the considerable rise in America, business is still practically at a standstill. Rice.—The importation of foreign rice has ceased, and the market is dull. Metals.—Business in Bars is extremely dull, and prices at home seem to have reached bottom, but buyers here are unwilling to pay covering prices. Galvanized Sheet.—The break in the combine has caused a big reduction in home prices, but dealers here seem to be of the opinion that there is room for a further decline when compared with the value of black sheets. Window Glass.—The market has advanced and there is a little activity. Despite fairly large importations, the stocks held here are thought to be somewhat short, and dealers are placing further orders. Flour.—Since our last report prices have dropped considerably and sales for September shipment have been made, although on a very small scale. Wheat.—The crop in America, it would seem, is likely to be above the average, but, as the outlook in Europe is poor, it is expected that prices will continue to rule fairly high for some little time pending the outturn of the Argentine and Australian crops.

SUGAR.

YOKOHAMA, 30th July, 1909.—Business in refined sugars has been entirely absent during the interval and it is understood there have been no auctions of Japan Refined.

YARN.

HONGKONG—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 20th August, states:—The firm feeling alluded to in last report has been not only well maintained, but much strengthened by advices of an active and rising market in Shanghai. A brisk and better inquiry existed throughout the greater part of past fortnight and dealers have, in several instances, advanced on their offers which had previously been refused. Prices of No. 20s show little fluctuation, but an advance of \$1 to \$2 per bale has been established for suitable desirable tickets of Nos. 10s. and 12s, which have been in strong demand for the Northern and East Coast markets. Receipts for the fortnight are much above the average, but as the off-takes also show a considerable increase, our estimate of stocks shows only a small addition when compared with last figures, and the market closes firm. Bombay is reported quiet but strong, and latest telegrams from that port quote Assur No. 10s 6½ annas and Victoria No. 20s 7½ annas per pound. The monsoon conditions are so far satisfactory, sufficient rain having fallen all over India. Sales of the interval aggregate 8,353 bales, arrivals amount to 19,009 bales, unsold stock estimated at 20,000 and uncleared yarn in second hands about 36,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Sales of about 400 bales Nos. 10s and 12s at \$116 and \$120 respectively are reported. Japanese Yarn:—Neglected throughout. Raw Cotton:—Importations are entirely checked by higher prices ruling in the home markets and there is no stock or transaction. In China kinds a parcel of 190 bales (small) Thoongchow is reported to have changed hands at \$36½. We quote to-day Indian \$29 to \$35 and China \$32 to \$37. Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 130½ for T/T and Rs. 131 for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 84½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 14th instant, viz.:—Indian:—A strong demand was experienced during the interval, Nos. 10s and 12s attracting most attention, values showing an advance of 1 to 2 Taels per bale and market closing strong. Total sales about 10,000 bales, with an estimated stock of 72,000 bales. Japanese:—Continue in good demand and prices have advanced 2 to 3 Taels per bale. Total sales about 4,000 bales at Tls. 103½ to 111½ for No. 16s and Tls. 113½ to 119 for No. 20s. Local:—Have been considerably dealt in, and 15,000 bales are reported to have changed hands on the basis of Tls. 94 for No. 10s, Tls. 99½ for No. 12s, Tls. 97 to 102 for No. 14, and Tls. 104 to 106 for No. 16s.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

5th August, 1909.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$1,050, sales
National of China...	£6	\$50, sales
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ T125	} Tls. 125
Insurance:—		
Union Society C't'n	\$100	\$830, buyers
North-China	£5	Tls. 116, buyers
Yangtze Assocn. ..	\$60	\$232½, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
Hongkong Fire....	\$50	\$345, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$116, buyers

Shipping:—

Docks & Wharves :—		
S'hai Dock & Erg...	T100	Tls. 79
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$62, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 145
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$57, buyers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 205, sales

Sugar Companies:—

Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 295, sellers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$140, sales

Mining :-

Raub Australian ...	£1	Tls. \$8½, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	Tls. 18½

Lands:—

S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 119, sales
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$107, sales
Humphreys' Estate	T10	\$93, buyers
Weiheiwei.....	T20	Tls. 9
China.....	T50	Tls. 50
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 105, sales

Cotton :—

Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 186
International	T75	Tls. 90, buyers
Laou Kung Mow...	T100	Tls. 110, buyers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 430, sales
H. C. S. W. D. Co., Ltd.	\$10	Tls. 8½, sellers

Industria

Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 110,
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 162½
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 161, sales
China Flour Mill...	T50	Tls. 41
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 35, buyers
Green Is. Cement....	\$10	\$9, sales
Shanghai Cotton...	T50	Tls. 82½, sales
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 1,012½
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 145
Dominion Rubbers..	T8	Tls. 14 sales
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	Tls. 425
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	\$100	\$75

A. Bu

Tile Works	T50	Tls. 20
Kalumpong Rubber	T50	Tls. 185, sellers
S. R ber Estates ..	T100	Tls. 270
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	£1	Tls. 17.60, sales
Eastern Fibre	£10	Tls. 10

Shang

Construction.....	\$10	\$6.10.0. buyers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$22, buyers
A. Llewellyn.....	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$8½, buyers
Central Ordinary...	\$15	\$17, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$40, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$42½
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$27, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$17, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$70, sel. ex div.
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5½
Tsingtao Hotel.....	\$100	Tls. 75
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$100	\$165
Dunning & Co.....	\$50	\$35
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 55
S'hai Mercury.....	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 64, buyers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber.....	T100	Tls. 75
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos.....	\$25	\$21
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository.....	T70	Tls. 25
Printing Co.....	T50	Tls. 50

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-kong Lands have ruled firm, and with an unsatisfied demand the rate has improved to 105 with sales. In the early part of the week some sales were effected at 103. Hotels have also advanced to 75 (old) and 45 (new), but we have no sales to report. Shanghai Land show a further advance to 119.

Cotton Mills—	
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50 Tls. 137½
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10 \$8, sellers
International	Tls. 75 Tls. 89½
Lacu Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100 Tls. 108
Soychee	Tls. 50 Tls. 43½
Dairy Farm Co.	\$6 \$16½, buyers

Docks & Wharves—

H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$60, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$60, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co. Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 79

S'hai & H. Wharf

Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	11, s. llers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$8.80, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas....	£10	210, buyers
Hongkong Electric....	\$10	\$204, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co. {	\$50	75, (old) buy.
	\$25	\$45, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$190, sale- & sel.
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$24, sellers

Insurances—

Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
China Fire	20	\$115, sales & sel.
China Traders	\$25	\$92, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 120, buyers
Union	\$100	\$40, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$227½, sales

Land and Buildings—

H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$105, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 110
West Point Building	\$50	\$44

Mineral—

S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raubs	15, 10 d.	\$81, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$141
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$1	\$11
	\$10	\$8

Refineries—

China Sugar	\$100	\$140
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$24, buyers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers

Steamship Companies

China and Manila...	\$25	\$10, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36
H., Canton & M...	\$15	\$31½, sales
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	(\$41½, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	£1	(\$19½, buyers
		73½, sellers

Star Fe

Star Ferry.....	\$5	\$15
South China M.Post....	\$25	\$24, sellers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$5

Stores & Dispensaries—

Campbell, M & Co.	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$4, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8.20, sales
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$150, buyers

United Asbestos

Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$11, sellers
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Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s in their Share Report for the week ending Aug. 12th, state:—The market is still very inactive, and in all probability no great amount of business will be passing until the close of the month. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/3½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. There have been no sales of Hongkong Banks and the market continues strong with buyers at Tls. 1,050 and none on offer. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. Sales took place during the week at Tls. 43½ and Tls. 45, closing with buyers at the latter figure. In Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co. shares no business is reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. A few transactions have taken place at Tls. 149 cash, Tls. 150, 151, 148½, 148 and 147½ for September. An interim dividend of Tls. 3 per share has been declared payable to shareholders on the 17th instant. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 78 for cash and Tls. 79 for September closing with buyers at Tls. 80 for Sept. Sugars and Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. Business is reported at Tls. 119 for cash and there are buyers at this figure. Industrial.—Cottons. Ewos have changed hands on the 9th and 10th at Tls. 137½ for September. The market closes with buyers. Shanghai Cotton. Cash shares were sold on the 6th and 8th instant, at Tls. 82½ and Tls. 85 respectively. Soy Chees. The only business reported was on the 9th at Tls. 425 for September. There are buyers of cash shares at Tls. 425 and for September at Tls. 435. Internationals. Sales took place on the 6th at Tls. 89½ closing with buyers at Tls. 90 cash and Tls. 91½ September. Laou Kung Mows Tls. 110 cash. Shanghai Sumatras. Business was done on the 9th at Tls. 150 September and on the 12th at Tls. 147½. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. For the last two weeks no transactions have taken place for cash, and only a small forward business is reported at Tls. 1,015, and Tls. 1,027½ for Sept., with buyers at the latter figure. No shares offering. Senawangs. Very few shares are changing hands, the market remaining steady at Tls. 270. Sales took place on the 6th and 11th at this figure. Tebongs. Sales on the 9th, 11th and 12th at Tls. 17.60. Dominions. A single transaction was made in the week at Tls. 12½ and the market closed firm with buyers at Tls. 13. Shanghai Ice changed hands on the 6th and 7th at Tls. 16½ and continue in demand. Miscellaneous.—The only business reported is in Shanghai Tramway Bearer shares at £6.5/-. In Debentures.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. debentures have been sold at Tls. 102½.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	HONGKONG, August 20th.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	Bank Bills, on demand
	218½
	Credits 4 months' sight
	222
ON GERMANY.—	On demand
	177½
ON NEW YORK.—	Bank Bills, on demand
	42½
	Credits, 60 days' sight
	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	Telegraphic Transfer
	130½
	Bank, on demand
	131
ON CALCUTTA.—	Telegraphic Transfer
	130½
	Bank on demand
	131
ON SHANGHAI.—	Bank, at sight
	74½
	Private, 30 days' sight
	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	On demand
	84½
ON MANILA.—	On demand
	85½
ON SINGAPORE.—	On demand
	73½
ON BATAVIA.—	On demand
	104
ON HAIPHONG.—	On demand
	9½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	On demand
	9 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	On demand
	88
STERLING, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.50
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.90
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 20th August.—Business is dull, with only a limited inquiry for tonnage. From Saigon to this, 8 cents nominal; to Philippines, 21/24 cents according to size; to North Coast Java, 20 cents. From North Coast Java to this, 20 cents to 22 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents for part cargo. Coal freights are weaker. From Moji to this, \$1.70 to \$1.75; to Singapore, \$2.75; to Amoy, \$2.00; Canton, \$2.40. From Hongay to this, \$1.50; Canton, \$1.60.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

August:—	ARRIVALS.
13, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.	
14, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
14, Helene, German str., from Tourane.	
14, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.	
14, M. Jebsen, German str., from Amoy.	
14, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.	
15, Chinhua British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Glenstrae, British str., from Singapore.	
15, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.	
15, Palma, British str., from Antwerp.	
16, Ashtabula, Br. str., from San Francisco.	
16, Awa Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.	
16, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.	
16, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.	
16, Glenearn, British str., from Hankow.	
16, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.	
16, Hilary, Ger. str., from Pulo Laut.	
16, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.	
16, Kaifuku Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
16, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
16, Lothian, British str., from Callao.	
16, Nippon, Aus. str., from Singapore.	
16, Prometheus Nor. str., from Bangkok.	
16, Rajah, Ger. str., from Rajany.	
16, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
16, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.	
16, Seattle Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
16, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Moji.	
16, Yeddo, Swedish str., from Moji.	
17, Australien, Fr. str., from Marseilles.	
17, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
17, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.	
17, Johanne, German str., from Hoihow.	
17, Kaisow, British str., from Singapore.	
17, Kiang Ping, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.	
17, Kjeld, Nor. str., from Newchwang.	
17, Sarpedon, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Trocas, British str., from Palambang.	
18, C. F. Laeisz, German str., from Hamburg.	
18, Changsha, Br. str., from Melbourne.	
18, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.	
18, Clara Jebsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.	
18, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.	
18, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.	
18, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.	
18, Slavonia, German str., from Foochow.	
18, Wuhu, British str., from Wakamatsu.	
19, Benlawers, British str., from London.	
19, Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.	
19, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.	
19, Dott, Norwegian str., from Samarang.	
19, Hyson, British str., from Liverpool.	
19, Kwangse, British str., from Chinkiang.	
19, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.	
19, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
19, Kweiyang, British str., from Newchang.	
19, Pakaoi, British str., from Newchang.	
19, Simongan, Dutch str., from St. Louis.	
19, Yatshing, British str., from Chingwantao.	
August:—	DEPARTURES.
14, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.	
14, Empress of Japan, Br. str., for Shanghai.	
14, Hinsang, British str., for Kobe.	
14, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.	
14, Mandal, Norwegian str., for Pukow.	
14, Sardinia, British str., for Singapore.	
14, Sexta, German str., for Cheribon.	
14, Shing Shun, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.	
14, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.	
15, Borneo, German str., for Kudat.	
15, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Pakhoi.	
15, Chunsang, British str., for Moji.	
15, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	
15, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
15, Machew, German str., for Swatow.	
15, Seljar, Norwegian str., for Moji.	
15, Spezia, German str., for Kobe.	
15, Welsh Prince, British str., for Singapore.	
16, Ithaka, German str., for Chinkiang.	
17, Asia, British str., for Keelung.	
17, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., for Europe, &c.	
17, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.	
17, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.	
17, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Keelung.	
17, Magallanes, American str., for Manila.	
17, Palma, British str., for Shanghai.	
17, Tean, British str., for Manila.	
17, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.	

18, Atlantis, American str., for Manila.
 18, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
 18, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for Singapore.
 18, Chowfa, German str., for Hoihow.
 18, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 18, Gregory Apar, Br. str., for Singapore.
 18, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 18, Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
 18, Kaisow, British str., for Nagasaki.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Nippon, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 18, Yeddo, Swedish str., for Saigon.
 19, Antiochus, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Changchow, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Chinhua, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 19, Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Fukui Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 19, J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
 19, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
 19, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
 19, Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 19, Sarpedon, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Hongkong, from Haiphong, Capt. Hoeg.
 Per Haiyang, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Robinson.
 Per Haimun, from Swatow, Misses M. Willa and C. Kaak.
 Per Cheongshing, from Tientsin, Messrs Clements and Goodman.
 Per Kanagawa Maru, from London, &c., Messrs W. Gallon, A. W. Pearce and Terada.
 Per Ernest Simons, from Shanghai, Messrs Lindemann, Vroas, Castels, Nessem & Djaling.
 Per Gregory Apar, from Japan, &c., Mr Mitchell, for Hongkong; Mr Robertson, for Calcutta.
 Per Changsha, from Melbourne, &c., Mr and Mrs Goldsmith, Mr, Mrs and Miss Walker, Mr and Mrs Millar, Messrs Ford and Ross.
 Per Awa Maru, from Japan, &c., Mrs M. E. Meyers, Lieut. Seater, Messrs J. J. McCarthy, Yenougo, H. H. Glover and H. Walker.
 Per Rubi, from Manila, Messrs M. McIntyre, P. P. Mechan, Z. Collins, Seffant, R. P. Sherman, G. P. Backer, B. H. Macke and E. W. Smith.
 Per Devanha, for Hongkong, from London, Mr Colvin; from Bombay, Mr C. J. Pinto; from Colombo, Mrs A. Duncan, child and infant; from Penang, Mr J. Scott; from Singapore, Messrs G. F. Abraham and H. J. Hunt; for Shanghai, from London, Miss M. Davies; from Bombay, Capt. Fellowes and Mr R. H. Ragi; from Singapore, Mr J. H. Baring.

DEPARTED.

Per Zafiro, for Manila, Mrs T. Munroe, Messrs W. W. Payna, T. B. Benavides, G. Ligores, J. G. Reyes, C. G. Mendoza, Mamond Shiri, M. Mustapha and M. Sharuf.
 Per Kaga Maru, for Seattle, &c., Miss Grant, Major Haynes, Master Haynes, Messrs F. C. Collins, J. S. Perry, F. C. Hurley, H. W. Lester, C. W. Smith, Juan Salazar, S. Ezekiel and Fujimoto.
 Per Empress of Japan, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Thiessen and child, Mr and Mrs Hoods, Mrs Beck, Miss Ericson, Capt. C. V. Lloyd, Dr. Panison, Dr. de Boer, Messrs N. D. Mudie, Philby, E. P. H. Lang, C. C. Liang, H. Liang, H. L. Napier, W. W. Lok, T. F. Clark, C. R. Lynde, T. H. Lyle, E. J. Kendall, E. H. Mayne, J. S. Bryan, F. J. Foxwell, J. C. Mulder and F. S. Allen.
 Per Ernest Simons, for Marseilles, &c., Mrs R. Gitch, Mrs Okamoto, Mrs Muni, Mrs Demaretz, Capt. Hildati, Rev. L. Perrondon, Messrs B. Mailbri, Sharp, Gopaladas, Hasamall, Holchand, Yoyosumi, H. C. Colman, Muni, E. Lindemann, Castelo, Jarassey, E. Dubois, E. Pasquet, P. Mendigal, Santos, Carvalho, M. Ramos and Pires, Remy, J. B. Xuyen, G. O. Margues, J. E. Galle and L. Shapice.

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